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OPINION METER

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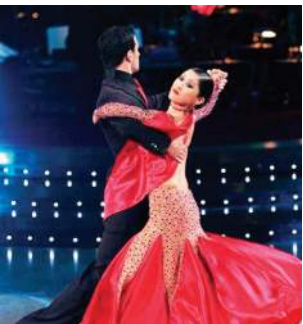
INSIDE



Deadly Ambush

Suspected Sunni insurgents ambushed a minibus carrying Iraqi police recruits near the Syrian border Monday, killing all 11 passengers, Iraqi officials said—the first deadly attack since Iraqi forces launched a major sweep against al-Qaida fighters in the region.

World... Page 17



Dancing Queen

Kristi Yamaguchi is clearly the most talented contestant on "Dancing with the Stars." But the question still looms heading into Tuesday's finale: Can a woman win the celebrity dance-off?

Life & Style... Page 19

Finance urged not to withhold rebate checks for tax arrears. **PAGE 2**
Chinese Association to send over \$22K to earthquake victims. **PAGE 7**

Physician charged in federal court



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MAGIC STICK

Forty-five Department of Public Safety officers and staff test their teamwork by carefully lowering down the "Magic Stick" using one finger each during the "Challenge Masters" workshop inside the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort yesterday afternoon. The staff development activities aim to challenge and empower participants to build trust, develop self-confidence, effective teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills.

Public Health backs hospital privatization

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has backed a proposal to transform the Commonwealth's only hospital into an autonomous

agency.

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare held a public hearing yesterday on a bill to create a Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation. The bill is seen as a move to pattern the



Villagomez

CNMI's health care system after the U.S. model. In most U.S. jurisdictions, hospitals are separate, self-governing entities.

In comments submitted to the legislative committee, Public

See **PUBLIC** on Page 4

CUC's Muna favors rate credit over rate reduction



Muna

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is proposing to help customers by offering them a "rate credit," instead of reducing

the rates.

Right now, it is not clear how the customer subsidy provided by law should be applied.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna in a letter to Rep. Tina Sablan said a rate credit is a more

practical way to offer the customer subsidy than a rate reduction.

Under Muna's proposal, the rate will remain at the computed level reflecting full recovery of fuel costs. He said this will assure

See **CUC'S** on Page 4

Dr. Hocog indicted for distribution of controlled drugs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Larry Borja Hocog was indicted in federal court for alleged distribution of controlled substance from September to November 2007.

See **PHYSICIAN** on Page 4

Foreign countries heed China's plea for doctors

By **WILLIAM FOREMAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHENGDU, China (AP)—Foreign countries heeded China's plea for medical aid for earthquake survivors, sending

RELATED NEWS
Warning of major after-shock sparks panic in China. **PAGE 16**

See **FOREIGN** on Page 4



AP

Rescuers take a rest during their search and rescue operation in Beichuan, Sichuan Province, China Monday evening, May 19, 2008.

INTRODUCING

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Local

Finance urged not to withhold rebate checks for tax arrears

The Department of Finance has been urged to release taxpayers' economic stimulus rebate checks without withholding any

amount owed the government for tax arrears.

Representatives Ray N. Yumul and David Apatang made

this call in a resolution they proposed yesterday. The resolution was prompted by "reports" that the Finance Department may

withhold certain taxpayers' economic stimulus rebate checks to offset any amount owed to the Commonwealth government.

But press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the Finance Department—"to my knowledge"—has no such plans. "That is an issue in Guam, but not here. I'm not sure we have the authority to do that even if we wanted to," he said.

Under Economic Stimulus Act, U.S. taxpayers would get checks of several hundred dollars from the federal government to stimulate the economy. The CNMI government received approximately \$16 million pursuant to the law. The Finance Department is preparing to disburse the money to taxpayers in the Commonwealth. The checks

are expected to be out before the end of this month.

Yumul and Apatang said the taxpayers should get their rebate checks without any deductions for taxes owed.

"It is the responsibility of the Department of Finance to collect all taxes due to the Commonwealth government, however, the intention behind the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 is to stimulate the federal, state, and local economies," the pair said.

They added that the rebate checks would help local taxpayers with the rising electric rates and fuel prices. (Agnes E. Donato)

LAND FOR SALE

- Subject Property.** Real property is situated at I-Denni (Capitol Hill), Saipan, and known as Lot. 322-1-1-2 (part of original Lot 322, TD 124), containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat 2060/92, the original of which was recorded 24 Dec 91, as Document No. 91-6427, at Land Registry, Saipan.
- Price.** The property will be sold to the highest bidder.
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- Conduct of Sale.** The sale will be held with reserve, which may or may not be disclosed to the bidders. Furthermore, the undersigned reserves the right to withdraw the property listed for sale at any time before the bid is accepted, or to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, the sale shall be subject to the approval of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Right of Redemption.** Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4541, the property sold in this sale may be redeemed at any time, within 12 months after the date of sale, and in accordance with 2 CMC § 4542.
- Contact Information.** Please submit written offers to the Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, on the 2nd Floor, Sign Arts Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 505621, Saipan, MP 96950. For more information, please contact the undersigned at 670.234.8946.

/s/ Ramon K. Quichocho

Fitial signs Kannat Tabla reprogramming bill into law

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill taking money away from the Kannat Tabla drainage project to pay land compensation claimants.

The bill became Saipan Local Law 16-1 despite a call from four Saipan lawmakers and over 50 constituents for a governor's veto.

The governor's transmittal letter to the Saipan Legislative Delegation Chairman Ramon A. Tebuteb and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios was silent on the disagreement over the bill.

Representatives Rosemond Santos, Edward Salas, and Tina Sablan, along with Sen. Maria Pangelinan, have called on the governor to disapprove what they called an "ill advised piece of legislation." They maintained that the measure would re-appropriate funds from an ongoing project to "special interest earmarks."

"[The] Kannat Tabla drainage project is of critical importance to the residents of the area, who for far too long have experienced regular flooding and poor road conditions. Although the intent of the...bill to provide relief or support for various community interests may have merit, the Kannat Tabla project is badly needed and is in fact already underway," the lawmakers said in a petition also signed by 55 local residents.

Under the new law, \$250,000 of the Kannat Tabla drainage funds will be re-appropriated for the land compensation of Jose Camacho, who has won a civil suit against the government. About \$200,000 will be used to compensate unnamed landowners at Kannat Tabla whose properties had been taken by government.

The balance will be divided among the JROTC Army ball (\$8,000), the Oceania Championship Games (\$30,000), and the Saipan Fishermen's Association (\$10,000).

Rep. David M. Apatang sponsored the bill.

The Saipan delegation passed the measure by a vote of 14-5. Those who voted against the bill are Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan and Reps. Stanley Torres, Joseph Reyes, Sablan, and Salas. Rep. Ray Yumul did not vote, and Santos was absent. (Agnes E. Donato)

NMC Placement Test on May 28

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, May 28. The test will be conducted in Room D-1 and will run from 2 pm to 5pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that

must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am- 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. (NMC)

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Judge Wiseman issues TRO vs two shareholders of Rota fishing firms

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has issued a Temporary Restraining Order that prevented two shareholders of two fishing companies on Rota from contacting or attacking the new majority shareholder of the corporations.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also ordered the two shareholders—Glenn H. Manglona and his wife Elizabeth C. Manglona—to stay at least 100 yards away from the plant, equipment, and fishing vessels owned by the Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc. located near the airport on Rota.

In issuing the TRO, Wiseman enjoined the Manglonas from staying at least 100 yards from the office, its equipment and documents of Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc. located in Songsong, Rota, and the same distance from the residence of the reported majority shareholder, Rockford Lee Zietzke.

According to court documents, Glenn Manglona is currently listed as the registered agent, a director and the vice-president/secretary of both corporations. Elizabeth Manglona is listed as a minority shareholder of the corporations.

Wiseman said the TRO shall expire at the date of the hearing on May 27, 2008, unless extended by the court.

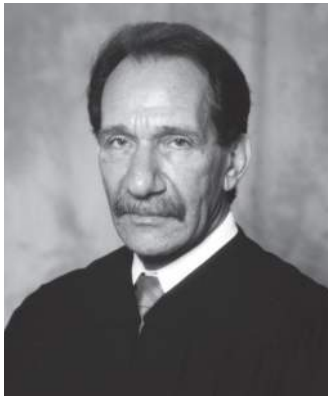
"Violation of this TRO is in contempt of court and punishable by a \$100 fine, six months in jail, or both," the judge emphasized.

The Manglonas have been summoned to appear at the hearing to provide any legal reason why the injunction and TRO should not be granted.

Zietzke, Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc., and Crystal Seas CNMI Inc., through counsel F. Matthew Smith, sought for injunction and TRO against the Manglona couple.

The two corporations are operating in the CNMI, with a fish processing plant and corporation offices on Rota.

Smith stated in the petition that the machinery and equipment owned by the corporations at its plant and office are valued



Wiseman

at \$847,631.

Smith said the machinery and equipment include sensitive freezers, fishing vessels, containers, fish packers, labeling machines, long line fishing equipment, and other computers and office items.

The lawyer said that on May 12, 2008, the president, a director, and the majority shareholder of the corporations resigned and assigned all of his shares and interests in the corporations to Zietzke.

On that same day, and in accordance with the laws and by-laws of the corporations, Rockford, as the 81 percent and 65 percent owner, noticed a meeting of the shareholders of each corporation for May 24, 2008, at 1pm and personally delivered a copy of the notice to Glenn and Elizabeth on May 14, 2008, at 5:15pm at the Saipan Airport.

The purpose of the shareholders meeting, as stated in the notice, was to vote on the removal of the current director and to reorganize the corporations.

Smith said it is critical to Zietzke as the majority owner that the assets and documents and accounts of the corporations are not damaged, tampered with, taken, or destroyed pending the noticed meeting and the reorganization and election of new officers and directors.

After receiving a majority interest in the corporations, Zietzke went to Rota to secure the plant and office of the corporations.

New locks were installed and while on Rota, Glenn Manglona failed to meet the majority owner as scheduled.

Smith said Glenn Manglona instead attempted to interfere in the securing of the corporations assets by calling his friends on Rota to stop Zietzke from enter-

ing the corporations' office.

"The protection and securing of the corporations assets is vital to the health and continuation of the corporations, as the corporate assets are being used to secure a loan from Independence Bank, which loan is currently in default for failure to pay the required payments," Smith noted.

On May 14, 2008, after returning to Saipan, Zietzke allegedly received an anonymous call from Rota and was told that Glenn Manglona was going to break in and destroy the corporations' records and property.

Smith said shortly after receiving the anonymous phone call at 10:30pm, Zietzke called Glenn Manglona.

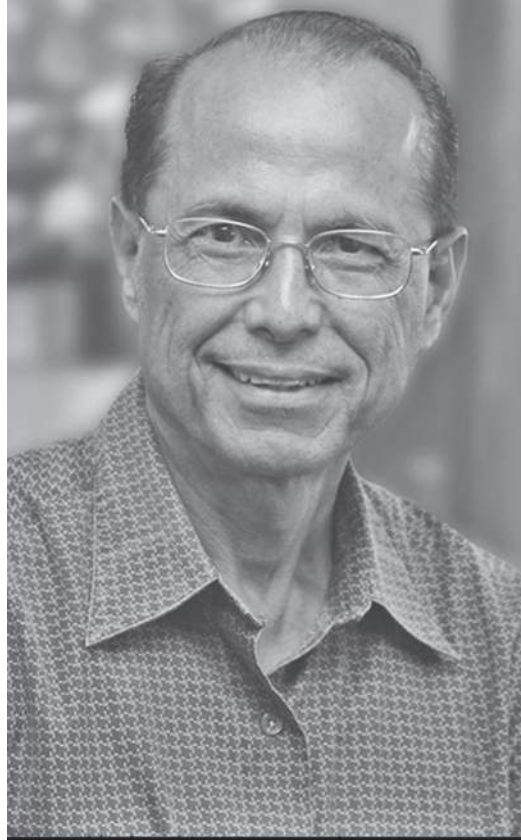
The lawyer said Glenn Manglona stated that he was going to knock the locks off that Zietzke had installed and that Glenn would break into the plant.

Smith said Glenn Manglona threatened to do bodily harm to the majority owner.

He pointed out that the phone call was on speakerphone and was heard by four other persons.

Because of the incidents, Smith said, Zietzke has been unable to obtain the necessary corporate documents and files needed to address the problems of the corporations as Independence Bank threatens to take over.

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Kaipat continues outreach program on new labor reform law

Department of Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat said Labor continues to conduct outreach community meetings regarding Public Law 15-108 or the new labor reform law.

Kaipat said she and Labor's senior management team con-

ducted an outreach informational meeting for Tasi Tours managers last April.

One company also requested Labor to hold such outreach meeting, said the former lawmaker in her interim report of P.L. 15-108 that she recently

submitted to the Legislature.

"Of course, the Department continues to field phone calls, e-mail inquiries, and walk-ins from the business community and members of the public who want to know more about our new labor-reform law," said



Kaipat

Kaipat, who was the principal author of the controversial law.

She cited that the computer station set up at Labor's Employment Services Division has proven helpful as it allows those who do not have access to a computer to avail themselves of

the services now made possible by the new automated system.

The computer station, she added, also provides people access to various information on Labor's website www.marianaslabor.net. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

PHYSICIAN

From Page 1

Hocog was charged with one count of distribution of oxycodone hydrochloride and one count of distribution of meperidine.

At yesterday's hearing, Hocog appeared with counsel, Ramon Quichocho. He pleaded not guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the jury trial for June 23, 2008.

Munson ordered that the defendant be released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond.

The judge said Hocog shall not prescribe any medication or controlled substance for which

he does not have a license in the CNMI.

Hocog is prohibited from leaving the CNMI without written permission from the court.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric S. O'Malley stated in the indictment that beginning on Sept. 4, 2007 and continuing until Nov. 30, 2007, the defendant, a medical doctor, dispensed oxycodone hydrochloride, a controlled substance.

O'Malley said the doctor distributed the controlled substance despite a restriction on his Drug Enforcement Administration controlled substance registration certificate and his CNMI license to practice medicine.

The prosecutor said that on Sept. 4, 2007 until Nov. 26,

2007, Hocog distributed a controlled substance, meperidine (commonly known as demerol).

O'Malley said the doctor dispensed the meperidine despite a restriction on his Drug Enforcement Administration controlled substance registration certificate and his CNMI license to practice medicine.

In March 2003, the Attorney General's Office filed 194 counts of violation of the Medical Practice Act and against Hocog for engaging in illegal practice of medicine on Rota for two years.

Hocog was also then charged with two counts of disturbing the peace for threatening to kill and fire two pharmacists on Rota.

According to an information filed by then assistant attorney

general Grant D. Sanders, the defendant practiced medicine 138 times when his medical license was expired, suspended or revoked from March to December 2001.

Sanders said Hocog also practiced medicine 56 times when his medical license was expired, suspended or revoked from January to September 2002.

The prosecutor said that on Sept. 4, 2002 the defendant disturbed the peace of Erlinda Quinto and Sheila Yamat.

Sanders said Hocog threatened to kill and fire Quinto and Yamat, both pharmacists, when they refused to fill the defendant's prescription upon learning he was not licensed to order such prescription.

Court documents also showed that a complaint was filed before the CNMI Medical Licensing Board against Hocog for allegedly engaging in unprofessional conduct by receiving personally \$35 for each 50 alien worker examinations he performed.

Hocog also allegedly personally received \$35 for each 47 alien worker examinations he performed.

In 2001 approximately 1,000 alien worker examinations were conducted at the Rota Health Center, but Hocog was without a license causing each examination to be invalid, the complaint said.

It was also alleged that Hocog engaged in questionable practices concerning the prescription of controlled substances from

the Rota pharmacy facilities.

The MLB in its decision issued in 2002 determined that Hocog did engage in the practice of medicine from February 2001 until April 2002 and from July 2002 until Sept. 10, 2002 while unlicensed by the board.

But Hocog brought to court the MLB's decision that found him engaging in unprofessional conduct by practicing medicine without a valid license.

Hocog, through counsel, asserted that the MLB's action is contrary to constitutional right, power, privilege or immunity.

It was not clear yet what happened to the charges in the Superior Court as well as the outcome of his lawsuit against MLB.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said that a corporation system would promote efficiency in delivering healthcare services in the CNMI.

"Autonomy in the day-to-day operations of the Commonwealth Health Center, autonomy in the hiring process for both medical and

non-medical personnel, autonomy in the procurement of medications, medical supplies and non-medical supplies and equipment—all of these will allow for efficiency in the delivery of healthcare services to the people of the CNMI," Villagomez said.

He noted that the hospital may continue to need appropriations from the central government even after the bill has become law. "The goal, however, that

these appropriations will slowly start to decrease because of the ability of the new corporation to manage its financial and operational status," he said.

Villagomez raised the issue of providing health care to the poor. He said a universal insurance program may be one of the solutions to this problem.

"I look forward to working closely with this body and the administration to ensure that

there is a smooth transition period from the current setup to the proposed setup in the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Act of 2008," he said.

Addressing the House committee, a CHC physician attested to the hospital's commitment to keeping the cost of healthcare down in the Commonwealth. Dr. Don Bader said that increasing fees and charges is not the only way a self-governing hospital can

support itself. Improving the collection system is a more practical approach, he said, and an independent hospital would have more motivation to do this than would a government-run hospital.

For his part, the bill's author said that proposal is "a leap in the right direction" for the health care system. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider stressed the urgency of the issue, and called on fellow lawmakers not to see

the bill through enactment. The Commonwealth, he said, had already "missed a lot of opportunities to do this because we failed to work beyond politics."

As Villagomez noted, the legislation or similar versions of it has been discussed, passed by the Legislature, rejected by the Executive Branch, and again reconsidered by both branches in one form or another several times in the past years.

CUC'S

From Page 1

investors, potential franchisees, and financial institutions that the CNMI government supports a sufficient rate structure. However, as subsidy payments are received from the central government, CUC will apply a fuel rate credit to the customers' accounts to reduce their billings.

"Obviously, it would be good to receive the subsidy payment

before billing is issued such that the rate credit can already be posted," Muna said.

He said that the subsidy was not factored in the rates that went into effect on May 3, 2008. That is because CUC had not received any fuel subsidy from the central government. Payments in excess of the central government's current utility charges are booked as advance payments for the government's future utility charges.

Muna also proposed that the fuel rate credit be applied

to low-end customers—those residential customers who use 1,000 kWh or less a month.

He offered this scenario to illustrate how the credit could be applied: Under the new rate, customers who use 1,000 kWh or less are projected to be billed a total of \$1.5 million. If CUC receives a subsidy payment of \$750,000, that will translate to a 50 percent rate credit for the affected customers.

But what happens if CUC receives a \$1.5 million subsidy, he

asked the Legislature. "Should CUC effect a 100-percent rate credit or allow a maximum 50-percent rate credit and balance of subsidy payment not credited carried forward to next period?"

For her part, Sablan expressed belief that relief should be provided to residential and commercial customers. "I think there should be short-term relief for all customers. We can still have different rates for commercial and residential customers, of course, but they all deserve

relief," she said.

Muna also said that CUC recognizes the additional funds identified in Public Law 16-2. These funds include about \$5.63 million in savings from the reduction of pension contribution rate, and about \$2.15 million in suspended earmarks for CUC's fuel expenses.

He said these funds were not factored into the new rates either, as CUC had yet to receive them from the central government. "[These funds] must be received by CUC prior to adjusting the fuel

rate charge or establishing a reliable recurring payment amount from the central government for which a rate adjustment can be factored," he said.

A new rate schedule went into effect on May 3, 2008. Under the new scale, customers must pay a total of 37.3 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh of usage. The rate increases with consumption.

Prior to May 2008, customers paid 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh.

FOREIGN

From Page 1

doctors and a portable hospital to help treat millions of homeless and injured, while the region remained jittery Tuesday over warnings of aftershocks.

Meanwhile, rescuers saved a 31-year-old man from the rubble of a power plant flattened by last week's earthquake, the second case of someone being found alive a week after the temblor struck Sichuan province.

Ma Yuanjiang was pulled from the Yingxiu Bay Hydropower Plant, where he worked as a director, after a 30-hour rescue effort, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Ma was able to speak after the rescue and began to eat small amounts of food, his colleague Wu Geng told Xinhua, but his exact con-

dition was unknown.

A miner, Peng Guohua, was in stable condition Tuesday after being trapped for 170 hours before his rescue Monday, Xinhua said.

China has said it would accept foreign medical teams, as the relief efforts shifted from searching for survivors to caring for the homeless. A growing number of countries responded to the call, dispatching doctors to the quake area Tuesday.

A Russian medical team with a mobile hospital arrived Tuesday in the Sichuan provincial capital Chengdu, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said. A 37-member medical team sent by the Taiwan Red Cross organization also arrived in the disaster zone.

Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said a 23-member medical team will leave Tuesday for China. Crews of

doctors were also en route from Germany and Italy, Qin said.

"China is willing to work closely" with outside doctors, Qin told a news conference.

Other countries and groups have also offered to send medical teams, but China has not given permission to allow all of them to help.

"But given the situation, and difficulties in the area, including transportation and telecommunications, it is not possible for us to accept all of the rescue and medical teams to engage in relief work," Qin said.

Rescue workers resumed the search for bodies on the second day of a three-day national mourning period declared by the Chinese government, an unprecedented gesture to honor the dead whose numbers were expected to exceed 50,000.

Because of plans to bury bod-

ies quickly, the government said DNA samples will be taken from corpses to help with later identification, Xinhua said. Identified bodies will be cremated, although burial will be allowed where no cremation is possible.

During the three-day mourning period, flags were flying at half-staff and entertainment events have been canceled. The Olympic torch relay has also been suspended.

Such official mourning periods have previously only been ordered for late national leaders.

The confirmed death toll stood at 34,073, and another 5,260 remained buried in Sichuan, the provincial government has said. Almost 250,000 are injured.

Thousands of quake survivors awoke Tuesday after spending a night sleeping in cars and in the open, frightened by government warnings of a potential

strong aftershock. The alarm compounded uneasiness in the region, which has been rumbled by dozens of aftershocks since the May 12 quake.

A panda from the Wolong Nature Preserve that disappeared during the quake returned safely, but two of the endangered animals were still missing, Xinhua reported. The others were "very likely to be alive," forestry official Xiong Beirong told the agency.

"Both pandas were adults and they are more capable to escape from dangers than younger ones," she said. "We hope the two missing pandas are as lucky as their peers."

The quake killed five staff members at the reserve and destroyed or damaged all of its 32 panda houses. The local government has sent emergency supplies of bamboo, apples and veterinary medicine for the pandas, along

with food and tents for staff.

Oil and gas operations in the region devastated by last week's earthquake in central China are virtually back to normal, state-owned oil and gas giant CNPC said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, China's banking regulators ordered banks to ensure adequate loans and other support for companies and individuals in the area.

The state-run China Daily warned Tuesday that citizens should be on guard against Internet fraud while donating to quake victims, saying they should be made only through official channels. Two people had been arrested in Guangdong province in southern China for setting up a fake donation Web site.

The State Council, China's cabinet, said donations for disaster relief had reached \$1.5 billion.

Fourth FedEx drop-off opens in Susupe

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Island Best Choice has officially opened Saipan's fourth FedEx drop-off at the heart of Susupe.

Conveniently located at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, the new Island Best Choice FedEx drop-off is already anticipating good business now that it is ready to serve the community.

The three other FedEx locations are Mita Travel FedEx in Garapan, Century Travel FedEx in Garapan, and CTSI Logistics FedEx in Lower Base.

Mario Gotico, of CTSI Logistics, said CTSI is the licensee of FedEx on Saipan.

"We are allowed to open several points on Saipan and our main office is at the CTSI Logistics Office at Airport Road."

According to Island Best Choice manager Eden Guillo, with the occupancy rate of 85 percent, the Marianas Business Plaza serves as a good location and potential for a successful business for FedEx.

"We had a lot of great responses from all of our tenants. They all have said that this is really convenient because they will no longer go to the airport or call and wait for FedEx to come and pick up their package when it just right in the same building," she said.

Gotico said that before the

new FedEx drop-off, "We did not have a near drop-off location in this area. The nearest one to here is at the Airport Road and then the next one if at Century Insurance."

He added that the 40-some tenants inside the Marianas Business Plaza usually seek the services of the FedEx offices from both Airport and Century Insurance locations.

"We're looking at the proximity between the Airport and Century Insurance, this area is so near so we went ahead and decided to open the fourth one here [for the sake of convenience]," Gotico said.

There are two employees at the new location ready to conveniently serve its customers particularly near and around the Susupe area.

"Although we are facing many challenges with the economy, we are very optimistic. We are very honored to be located here at the Marianas Business Plaza; and I feel that we really are on the right track," Guillo said.

She added that she would like to thank her boss Eric Vandermass for "he is the one who gave us inspiration and encouragement to open the FedEx business. And as we continue to grow, he's always there to support us."

The Island Best Choice FedEx is now open for business and can be reached at 235-2883.



CNMI Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Horizon Lines manager Joven Cruz, FedEx supervisor Leslie F. Rodriguez, CTSI Logistics Saipan general manager Rene S. Magalong, CTSI's Mario Gotico, Island Best Choice operations manager Eden Guillo, and CTSI staff and clients gather for a photo during the official opening of the island's fourth FedEx drop-off at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HARDT EYE CLINIC

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DAY & NIGHT**

**SEATBELT
MUST BE
WORN
DAY & NIGHT.**

**CLICK IT
OR
TICKET**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICIAL SEAL

Ex-convict gets 7 mos. in jail for violating probation terms

An ex-convict who was arrested for assaulting his girlfriend while on probation for theft and for beating her up was ordered to spend seven months in jail.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Jesse James I. Lisua to seven months in prison for violating his probation in two previous criminal cases.

Following a plea agreement, Govendo gave Lisua credit for 17 days he already

served in jail.

After serving the jail term, Lisua will be placed on two years of probation.

The judge ordered the defendant to pay a \$25 court assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community work service.

Govendo said Lisua should complete domestic violence, anger management, and drug and alcohol counseling.

Lisua is charged with violating probation in two 2006 crim-

inal cases. He is charged with new criminal law violations in a 2007 case and another one in 2008 case.

He entered a plea agreement with the government and admitted to violating probation in the two 2006 cases. The government agreed to dismiss entirely the remaining cases should the defendant comply with the conditions of his sentence.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that in Feb-

ruary 2007 Lisua dropped his girlfriend to her work at a hotel in Garapan.

The girlfriend told the defendant not to pick her up if he is drunk. Later that night, Lisua came to pick up the girlfriend, but he fell asleep on the ground in the hotel's parking lot. The girlfriend woke him up.

Upon arrival at their house, Lisua got upset and grabbed the victim's left foot. He dragged her out from the front door, causing

scratches to her left foot.

The victim's father tried to intervene, but as a result Lisua hit him with his elbow.

The victim called the police, prompting the defendant to leave the house. Later, police spotted Lisua on board his car and placed him under arrest.

In October 2006 the defendant pleaded guilty to assault and battery for slapping the same girlfriend. He also pleaded guilty to theft for

stealing a digital camera belonging to a relative.

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja accepted the defendant's plea and sentenced him to a total of 10 days in jail, with credit for seven days he already served, for the two cases.

The judge placed him on probation and required him to comply many other conditions in imposing suspended sentence. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Memorial Week proclamation set today

The Office of the Governor, Office of Military/Veterans Affairs and the Memorial Day Committee are reminding the general public to come, celebrate and honor the brave men and women who served, with unwavering dedication and purpose, paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the

world safe, and secure the freedom we enjoy today.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez will be signing the proclamation for Memorial Week on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 10am at the Governor's Conference Room.

Memorial Day ceremony will

be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 9am. The Pacific Winds Concert Band will begin with the Pre-ceremonial music at 8:30am. The keynote speaker will be Rear Admiral William French, Commander Naval Forces Marianas. Everyone is invited. *(PR)*

Karidat postpones anniversary dinner

The Karidat Social Service is postponing its 28th Anniversary Dinner until Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is well enough to attend.

Bishop Camacho arrived last night from Hawaii after he successfully underwent surgery to remove a section of his lung that had been affected by cancer.

According to Dr. Mark Grattan, Camacho's cardiothoracic surgeon at the Straub Hospital in Honolulu, the lung cancer was at an early stage (Clinical Stage 1), with no clinical evidence of spread, "and it was completely removed."

The 28th Anniversary Dinner was originally set for this Saturday, May 24.

Executive director Angie V. Leon Guerrero said the anniversary dinner would have to be postponed until further notice, "depending on the bishop's condition."

This year, the Karidat Social Service is honoring Bishop Camacho at the organization's anniversary dinner that will be held at the Aqua Resort & Spa.

Camacho founded the non-profit charitable organization 28 years ago that has provided emergency food, shelter, and services to thousands of people in the Commonwealth.

Also this year, Camacho, who was ordained bishop in 1985, will be stepping down as the highest ranking prelate in the islands when he submits his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI once he turns 75 on Sept. 18, as mandated by Canon Law.

"The Bishop has given so much to the community over the years, and we want to honor him before he resigns," Leon Guerrero said.

Tickets for Karidat's 28th Anniversary Dinner & Fundraiser are still being sold at the Karidat office or any of the board members for \$50 each while raffle tickets are being sold at \$1 each.

Leon Guerrero is urging all those who have already bought tickets to read the newspapers to find out when the event will take place.

For more information, call Karidat at 234-6981. *(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)*



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID NMHC ITB-08-009

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **CONSTRUCTION OF THE TINIAN AMPHITHEATER PARKING LOT** in San Jose, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, May 15, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by U.S. law. Bidders are further advised to participate the increase of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2008**, at the on-going construction site of the Tinian Amphitheater in San Jose, Tinian, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC ITB-08-009**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 30, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 30, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 30, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 10, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 11, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 30, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Project". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan

NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director

Division of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-027

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Computers and Accessories for William S. Reyes Elementary School**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-027" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-027, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**
Acting P&S Officer

Chinese Association to send over \$22K to earthquake victims

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chinese Association will be sending over \$22,000 in cash donations to the earthquake victims in China.

CNMI Chinese Association vice president Anna Chan said the organization has been collecting donations since last Friday and that they plan on sending all they've raised to China sometime this week.

The 7.9-magnitude earthquake that struck western China last May 12, killed at least 34,000 people. Chinese officials say they expect the death toll to reach 50,000.

"Communication to China was really bad [shortly after the quake], I know some people whose families live around the province [where the quake struck]. They were trying to call their families, but it was very difficult," Chan said. "But now communication is getting much better and I hope they have been able to get a

hold of their families."

She said she first learned of the news as she was browsing on the Internet. "I also turned on the TV and couldn't believe what I was seeing. It's hard to imagine something like that could happen to your home country. I was just shocked," Chan said.

Today, the association is continuing to collect more donations from the community as they prepare to send it to China.

"We don't have a target amount but we'd like to collect as much as possible. Every little bit helps," Chan said.

According to latest Associated Press news, the Chinese government reported that companies suffered \$9.5 billion in damages from the quake.

Chan said she is happy to see to that "the Chinese community and the local community have been lending out a helping hand despite the economic woes" and those are still interested in donating to the worthy cause can still make their donations.

Donations are being accepted at the Dollar Days Wholesale, TransAmerica, Modern Stationary, Subway, Sunleader, Chinese Association, or in front of the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.

"We, the people here, are just very lucky to have our families and friends around, alive and well. We still have our homes, and we still have food to eat. And as the saying goes, 'It's better to give than to receive,'" Chan said.

Saipan Chinese Association vice president Anna Chan holds a placard asking community members to give donations for the earthquake victims in China in front of the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

NOTICE OF Community Forum

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY — 2009
State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

OFFICE OF
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION

P.O. Box 501521
Saipan, MP 96950-1521

Phone: 322-6537/8 (Saipan)
Fax: 322-6536

Email: voc.rehab@saipan.com



TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMUNITY



Please be advised that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will be conducting statewide public forums on its **State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services for FY 2009.**

The Northern Marianas community is invited and encouraged to participate in the public forums as this is an opportunity to comment on our proposed state plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation can and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What are some of the barriers that currently prevent persons with disabilities from getting or keeping their jobs? More importantly, what are some of the solutions to those barriers? **Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities?**

Your input into our proposed State Plan is much appreciated!

Community Forum on VR State Plan FY 2009

**SAIPAN
WHEN:**

May 19, 2008
(Monday)

WHERE:

Multi-Purpose Center

TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

**TINIAN
WHEN:**

May 21, 2008
(Wednesday)

WHERE:

Tinian Elementary
School Cafeteria

TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

**ROTA
WHEN:**

May 23, 2008 (Friday)

WHERE:

Tamara and Seven
Brothers Building

TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact OVR (Magin Iginoef) at least 3 days before the scheduled hearing. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Navy Hill, Building N2.

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by a RSA Grant of the United States Department of Education. Office of the Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

DEQ: No swimming or fishing near or around drainage at Makaka beach

The Division of Environmental Quality advises public not to swim or fish near or around the drainage at the Makaka Beach, south of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The drainage was blocked due to high volume of sand from recent waves, trapping fish, and other marine life. The stagnant water has become dangerous with decaying fish and other marine life.

The Department of Public Works removed the sand last Monday May 19. The sand removal resulted in the water being released into the lagoon and af-

fected the water quality and safety of swimmers and fishermen.

Therefore, DEQ advises all residents and tourists not to swim or fish within 250 meters or 820 feet of the drainage site.

Water sampling will be performed by DEQ's laboratory staff to determine the level of bacteria and will announce if the drainage and surrounding beach site will be safe to swim or fish.

More information about water quality can be found at www.deq.gov.mp or by calling the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to I CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Public Utility Commission, hereby give notice that the Public Utility Commission will hold its Special meeting on Friday, May 23, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center Conference Room on Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of April 18, 2008 Minutes

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commonwealth Utilities Commission May 2008 Rate Increase
- B. Public Laws 15-94 & 16-2
- C. Guam PUC & CCU Meeting

III. OLD BUSINESS

- D. Commonwealth Telecommunication Commission Property Inventory
- E. NARUC
- F. PUC Office Space
- G. Announcement Public Utilities Commission Staff
- H. Request for Proposal for Legal Counsel

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ **VIOLA ALEPUYO**
COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Fundraiser for musicians bound for Olympics set

The CNMI has a chance to project a very positive image to the world this summer. A small group of five musicians from Saipan Southern High School has been chosen to perform at the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, as representatives of the Northern Marianas.

A fundraiser will be held this coming Saturday at Porky's Beach

Bar next to Mobile McDonald's in Garapan. The fun starts at 6pm. There will be music by members of the Manta band and a sampling from the talented musicians that will represent the CNMI in Beijing. Then the popular ICON Band will play for your dancing and listening enjoyment.

A mere \$15 gets you a Chinese Dinner and two free drinks. Prizes will be awarded. You may

even get a chance to play in the Rock Band!

Tickets are available from Boni Gomez, principal of Garapan Elementary School; Tony Gomez Jr. or other bandmembers at Saipan Southern High School; at Porky's Beach Bar (233-2444) or send an email to bherealways@gmail.com.

The kids are working hard and will essentially give up their entire

summer holiday to practice, travel, and perform as the islands' representatives at the Olympics. They need funds to get them to Guam where they will continue practicing and additional funds to get them to Beijing and maintain them.

Please come out on Saturday, May 24, and support these fine students and their mission to positively portray the Marianas in the upcoming Olympic Games. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS: No school on May 30

Saipan Southern High School will have no classes on May 30, 2008, due to preparation for the graduation. Classes will resume on June 4, 2008, this will be the last day of school. (PR)

Red Cross annual meeting tomorrow

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting tomorrow, May 22, from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections for the voting members of its Board of Directors, review reports by chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. (Refreshments will be served).

For more information, please contact the chapter office at 234-3459. (ARC)

Live fire training on FDM May 19-23

The Emergency Management Office, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

May 19 - 20, 2008 from 6am to 1am - Live Fire Training

May 21 - 23, 2008 from 6am to 1am - Live Fire Training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and

dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (PR)

MHS Class on 1988 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting again on June 5, 2008, 6:30pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School.

It was decided on Thursday, May 15, 2008, meeting to extend the dateline for payments to June 5, 2008. Classmates are being encouraged to turn in there payments by then. You can contact our Treasurer Ms. Me-

lissa D. Diaz at 285-2624. (PR)

Mount Carmel Theater Club presents first film

Mount Carmel Theatre club invites the public to join them in its first feature-length film called, "Caesar."

MCS Theatre club jumps from the stage to the big screen.

The film is an adaptation of the classic play "Caesar" by William Shakespeare.

The event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on

Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31, beginning 7pm.

Due to exceptionally limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended. The value of each ticket is worth \$5.00.

For more information, you can call 235-1251 or email galvin@itecnmi.com, visit their website at www.mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 21, 1999

Wider tax exemptions get commerce backing

Commerce Secretary Frankie B. Villanueva has expressed support for a plan by the Legislature to provide tax exemptions to businesses which meet certain criteria to be imposed by the government in efforts to spur the local economy. Called the Qualifying Tax Certificate Program, the proposal is sponsored by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider to assist the private sector in dealing with the current economic crisis through a package of incentives.

Special Ed toughens rules for guns in campus

Under the amended version of the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act, school principals are allowed to remove a special education student from their campuses if a child brought a gun to school. The temporary removal will also cover students caught with dangerous weapons and illegal drugs, as well as those peddling controlled substance.

Mismanagement blamed for DPS mess

While officials of the Department of Public Safety insist the problems plaguing the government office point to diminishing resources, lack of leadership and mismanagement could have aggravated the situation, according to legislators. This was what the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations found out at the resumption of its oversight hearing yesterday after more than a month in recess since it began on April 15.

MAY 21, 2001

Budget cut threatens five crucial programs in NMC

Funding allocation for the Northern Marianas College has been reduced by about 64 percent since 1999, which threatens continued operation of at least five of its educational programs, according to acting president Alvaro A. Santos. Mr. Santos criticized Public Law 10-66 which, he said, failed to adequately finance at least five educational programs currently offered at the College.

Higher gas prices greet car owners

Shell Guam, Inc. raised pump prices of petroleum products in all service stations in the Northern Marianas effective Sunday midnight, due to new rounds of oil price increases in the Singapore regional market. Car owners who gas up at Shell service stations throughout the CNMI will have to cough up an additional four cents for a gallon of regular and six cents more for a gallon of premium gasoline.

Fashion that cares for the environment

An audience of more than 300 people broke into applause Sunday as Mount Carmel School students paraded the fashion runway in makeshift but chic pieces of ensemble, promoting a common conviction. The fashion statement: Recycle.

MAY 21, 2002

Dela Cruz, Villagomez assume new positions

The Senate has a new Vice President in the person of Sen. Jose Dela Cruz and a new Legislative Secretary in Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez-a reconfiguration of Senate officers arising from Sen. David M. Cing's resignation from the chamber's leadership. During yesterday's session, the upper chamber adopted Senate Resolution 13-12, which effectively promoted Dela Cruz to the Senate vice presidency, replacing Cing and leaving the Legislative Secretary position vacant for Villagomez to slide into.

Juveniles escape from detention

A pair of juvenile detainees bolted out of the Kagman Detention Center Friday by tampering with the detention's fence while the guard was not looking, police reported yesterday. The escape was the second of a similar incident to occur in barely a month, when another pair of juvenile detainees plotted and managed to outmaneuver a detention guard. But police officers apprehended the escapees, aged 12 and 13, several hours after they broke out of detention, Public Safety spokesperson Lt. Pete C. Muña said. They were caught in Capitol Hill by the Esco's Bakery.

Europe Highlights

Tour 2008

France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.
June 14-29, 2008

\$3,485⁰⁰

Twin sharing/per person

Includes

- Economy class Manila-Europe-Manila
- Breakfast and Dinner throughout
- All hotel accommodation at 3-4 star hotels
- All tours mentioned with English speaking guides
- Transfer from Airport to hotel and vice versa
- Private long distance coach throughout Europe

Some restrictions apply.



For more information please call your travel agents, Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at customerservice@centurytravelagency.com www.centurytravelagency.com

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Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan,
PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950

Deadline for 'The Ties that Bind' essay contest approaching

The NMI Council for the Humanities wishes to remind public and private high schools about the upcoming submission deadline for "The Ties that Bind" Essay Contest.

Essays must be submitted to the Council on or before 4:30pm on Friday, May 30. Entries may be dropped

at the Council's office in the Reyes Building in Dandan or faxed to number 235-4786.

The contest is being co-sponsored by the Council and the Philippine Consulate General's Office's office to mark the 110th Philippines Independence Day.

The contest's theme is "The Ties that Bind: Exploring the Historic Connections of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of the Philippines."

Each participating high school may submit up to three essays that will be scored by a panel of judges.

Winners will be announced after the flag-raising ceremony during the consulate's Independence Day Celebration on June 12.

The first place winner will receive a round-trip ticket for two to Manila, which includes a tour of the Malacanang Palace and a chance to meet

with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Second place will get a cash prize of \$300 while the third place finisher will receive \$200.

Interested schools may contact the Council's Program Officer, Scott Russell, for more contest details. (PR)

Economic stimulus payment FAQs

Following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the economic stimulus payments. The *Saipan Tribune* will be publishing these FAQs as a series.

Q. I received a check in the mail from the federal government. How can I tell whether it is my stimulus payment?

A. Look for the words, "2008 Economic Stimulus Payment" on the front of the check, below your address.

Q. I received my stimulus payment, but it was less than what my friends and neighbors received. Why?

A. Your economic stimulus payment will be based on information provided on your 2007 income tax return.

Many, but not all, taxpayers qualify for the maximum basic payment of \$600 for singles or \$1,200 for married couples. Many parents are also receiving an additional \$300 for each qualifying child, born after Dec. 31, 1990.

Your payment may be less than the maximum for one or more of the following reasons:

- You are single and your net income tax liability is less than \$600. If you file Form 1040 net income tax liability is the amount shown on Line 57, plus the amount on Line 52.

- You are married and your net income tax liability is less

than \$1,200.

- You are single and your adjusted gross income (AGI) is more than \$75,000. On Form 1040, AGI is the amount on Line 37.

- You are married filing a joint return and your AGI is more than \$150,000.

- You owe back taxes.

- You have non-tax federal debts such as unpaid student loans or child-support obligations.

Around the same time you receive your payment, you will receive a notice from the IRS explaining how your payment was figured. It is important to keep this notice as a record of your economic stimulus payment. In addition, you'll get a separate notice if you owe back taxes or non-tax debts.

The "Stimulus Payments: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions" section of this Web site has further details on how these payments are figured.

Q. The notice I received shows that I should have gotten more than the government actually deposited into my bank account. Did something go wrong?

A. It could be that the amount deposited into your bank account was what remained of your stimulus payment after it was offset for money you owed on back taxes or other debts such as a student loan or child support. If this is the case, you'll receive an additional notice, providing details on the offset.

Q. I received a stimulus payment and I want to verify that it is correct. How do I figure the payment, myself?

A. The easiest way to figure the amount is to use the Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator on this Web site. Essentially, there are two parts to the stimulus payment: a basic amount based on tax liability, filing status or other qualifying income, if there is no tax liability, and an additional amount based on whether a qualifying child is reported on the return.

Basic Amount of Payment: If you had a net income tax liability for 2007, you will generally receive a payment, unless you can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return, had higher income or do not have a valid Social Security number.

Your net income tax liability is one of the following:

- On Form 1040, the amount shown on Line 57 plus the amount on Line 52;

- On Form 1040A, the amount shown on Line 35 plus the amount on Line 32; or

- On Form 1040EZ, the amount on Line 10.

NOTE: Don't be confused. Net income tax liability is not the same as the amount of tax withheld from your pay, the amount of your refund or the balance due on your return.

Your stimulus payment is equal to your net income tax liability, but no more than \$600, if you are single, or \$1,200, if you

are married filing a joint return.

If you had no net income tax liability for 2007, you are usually getting a minimum payment of \$300, if you are single, or \$600, if you are married filing jointly, as long as you had qualifying income of at least \$3,000 in 2007. To figure your qualifying income, add together the following amounts:

- Wages that are reported on Form W-2.

- Net self-employment income that is taken into account in computing taxable income.

- Social Security benefits reported in box 5 of the 2007 Form SSA-1099 you received in January 2008. If you don't have this form, you can estimate your annual benefit by multiplying your monthly benefit by the number of months (usually 12) you received benefits during 2007.

- Certain Railroad Retirement benefits reported in box 5 of the 2007 Form RRB-1099 you received in January 2008.

- Veterans' benefits received in 2007, including veterans' disability compensation and disability pension or survivors' benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs. You can estimate your annual benefit by multiplying your monthly benefit by the number of months during 2007 you received benefits.

- Nontaxable combat pay if you chose to include it as earned income on your 2007 return.

Note: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is not considered qualifying income and is not included for the purpose of establishing eligibility for the stimulus payment.

Additional Amounts for Qualifying Child: If you qualify

for the basic amount, you may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify, a child must be younger than age 17 and have a valid Social Security number.

Phase Out: Your payment is reduced, or you may receive no payment at all based on your income level. The stimulus payment begins to phase out for individuals with adjusted gross incomes (AGI) over \$75,000 and married couples who file a joint return with AGI over \$150,000. The combined payment is reduced by 5 percent of the income above the AGI thresholds. Your AGI is the amount shown on:

- Form 1040, Line 37
- Form 1040A, Line 21, or
- Form 1040EZ, Line 4

Source: Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov)



THE ATHLETE'S FOOT

will soon open a branch in Guam. Come and apply in person at our Human Resources Office in Susupe.

Applications will be available from Tuesdays through Thursdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm. No phone calls please.

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2 years experience (preferably in the field of footwear), high school graduate and must have valid Drivers License.

2 SALES ASSOCIATE (Part-Time) – \$6.55/hr.

years retail experience (preferably in the field of footwear, minimum high school diploma or equivalent).

1 SALES ASSOCIATE (Full-Time) – \$6.55/hr.

years retail experience (preferably in the field of footwear, minimum high school diploma or equivalent).

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA

EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/10 SAT	5/8 THU	4/28 MON	5/15 THU	4/29 TUE	5/3 SAT	5/16 FRI	5/12 MON	5/11 SUN	5/6 TUE	4/27 SUN	5/12 MON	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/17 SAT	5/15 THU	5/5 MON	5/22 THU	5/6 TUE	5/10 SAT	5/23 FRI	5/19 MON	5/18 SUN	5/13 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/19 MON	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	017E	5/24 SAT	5/22 THU	5/12 MON	5/29 THU	5/13 TUE	5/17 SAT	5/30 FRI	5/26 MON	5/25 SUN	5/20 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/26 MON	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT
MELL SENOKO	005E	5/31 SAT	5/29 THU	5/19 MON	6/5 THU	5/20 TUE	5/24 SAT	6/6 FRI	6/2 MON	6/1 SUN	5/27 TUE	5/18 SUN	6/2 MON	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/7 SAT	6/5 THU	5/26 MON	6/12 THU	5/27 TUE	5/31 SAT	6/13 FRI	6/9 MON	6/8 SUN	6/3 TUE	5/25 SUN	6/9 MON	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/14 SAT	6/12 THU	6/2 MON	6/19 THU	6/3 TUE	6/7 SAT	6/20 FRI	6/16 MON	6/15 SUN	6/10 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/16 MON	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/28 WED	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	5/31 SAT	SKIP	6/4 WED	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/17 TUE	6/18 WED
STADT HAMBURG	017E	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/24 TUE	6/25 WED
MELL SENOKO	005E	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/14 SAT	SKIP	6/18 WED	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/1 TUE	7/2 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/25 WED	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/8 TUE	7/9 WED
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	6/28 SAT	SKIP	7/2 WED	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/17 THU	7/15 TUE	7/16 WED

NOTE: MELL SENOKO 003E REQUIRES THE PROPELLER CONTROL SYSTEM OIL DISTRIBUTION RINGS TO BE REPLACED WITH A NEW PARTS AT HONGKONG. THEN PROCEED DIRECTLY TO GENSAN FROM KAOSHIUNG SKIPS GUAM/SAIPAN/YAP/KOROR.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Who's the bully?

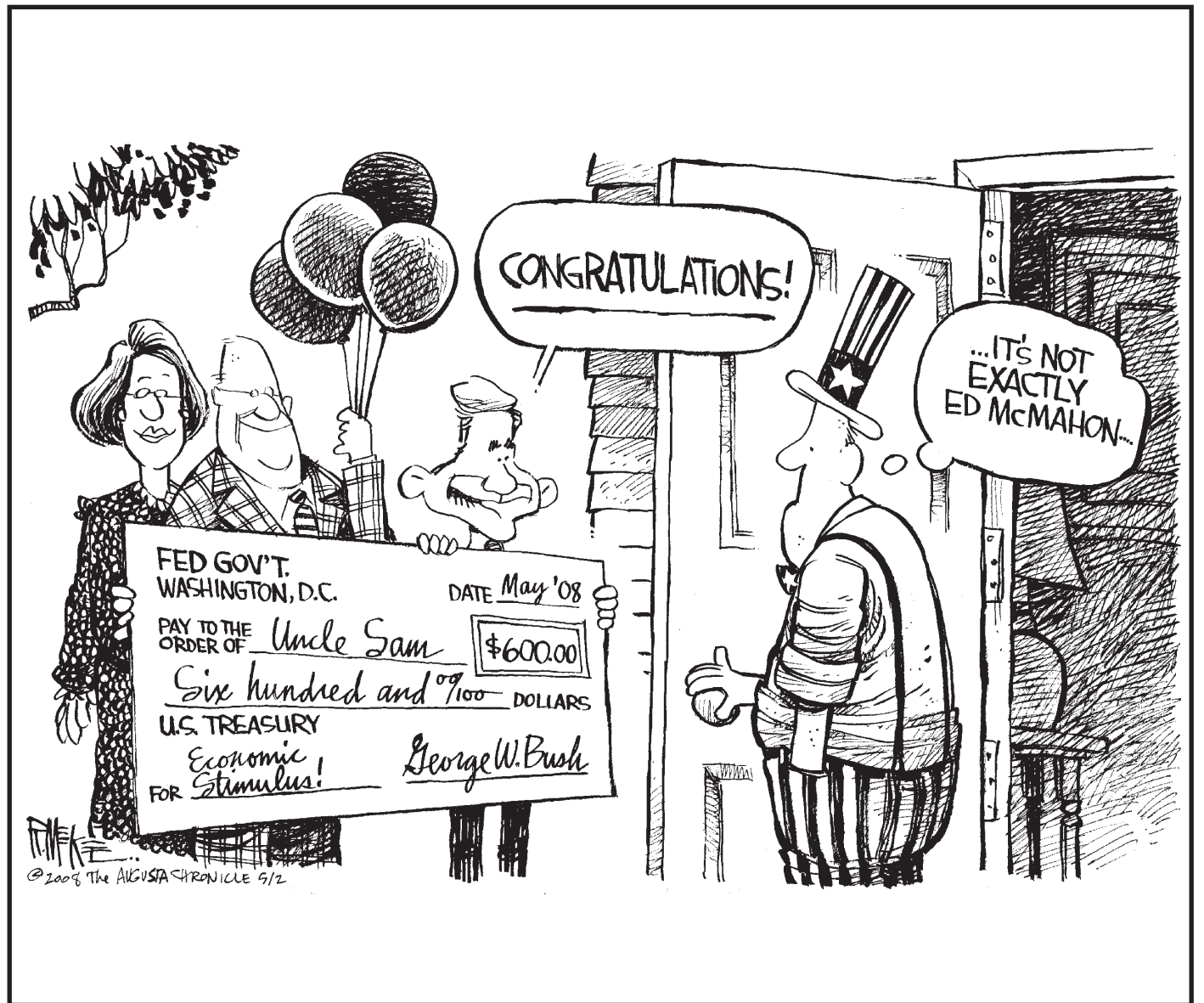
What happened to Megan Meier, a girl in a small Missouri town west of St. Louis, was a 21st century parent's nightmare. Befriended by a stranger online who purported to be a handsome 16-year-old boy, Megan wound up being rejected and abused in a heated exchange of messages on MySpace.com. She hanged herself in her bedroom closet, dying the following day, shortly before her 14th birthday. Many weeks later, Megan's parents learned that the flirtatious 16-year-old was in fact an impostor created by a handful of people who lived within a few doors of their home—including the mother of one of Megan's former classmates.

Last week a federal grand jury in Los Angeles indicted that mother, Lori Drew, on a charge of conspiracy and three counts of unauthorized access to a computer. Yet as hard as it may be to feel sympathy for Drew, what the Justice Department has done should alarm anyone who uses the Internet. The legal theory underpinning this case could just as easily be used to attack other kinds of anonymous speech online, including whistle-blowing, or to enforce dubious contracts that Web sites impose unilaterally on their users.

The problems with this indictment start in Missouri, where local and state prosecutors could find no law that applied to Megan's death in October 2006. An increasing number of states have laws against "cyber-bullying" or online harassment, but Missouri does not, at least not yet. After state authorities threw up their hands, the feds took up the case—specifically, prosecutors in the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, which has jurisdiction over MySpace's headquarters in Beverly Hills. They seized on a federal law that was designed to stop hackers from breaking into computers and stealing sensitive or valuable information, and persuaded the grand jury to apply those strictures to Drew's alleged involvement in the hoax.

The indictment essentially treats MySpace as the victim and Megan as collateral damage. Drew and the unnamed co-conspirators—reportedly, three girls who were 13 to 18 years old at the time—are accused of violating not Megan's rights but MySpace's terms of service. These included prohibitions against creating fictitious profiles, sending abusive messages and soliciting personal information from minors. By that logic, criminal charges also could be brought against people who adopt fake identities online for good reason—for example, to criticize their employers or hide themselves from abusive spouses.

See WHO'S on next page



China mourns: In tragedy, a new kind of unity

By MATTHEW FORNEY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

On my street last week, the Communist Party's neighborhood committee moved old computers out of its storage room to make way for donated materials bound for earthquake victims 2,000 miles away. Within 12 hours, the space was crammed with clothes and blankets.

All across China, images of mass destruction and individual courage have inspired ordinary citizens to donate money, material and sweat to earthquake victims in the remote foothills of the Himalayas. This national sense of purpose might look similar to the response of average Americans after Hurricane Katrina battered New Orleans, but what's happening in China is new and significant.

This marks the first time in recent history that ordinary Chinese have participated in a national movement that was not a protest against something—usually a foreign power. Until now, China has defined itself in terms of "Us vs. Them." Today, it's "Us Without Them." The change could have a profound and positive impact on this summer's Olympics in Beijing—and on China's self-confidence for years to come.

Until the quake on May 12, the dominant mood in China was one of frustration. Citizens had seen this summer's Olympics in Beijing as an affirmation of China's progress. But everywhere they looked, the world blamed their country for something: its support for the regime in Sudan; its suppression of anti-government protests in Tibet; its dispatch of People's Armed Police cadets to protect the Olympic torch overseas. China was even faulted for Burma's unwillingness to accept foreign aid after a typhoon struck it two weeks ago. Few Chinese have problems with these policies, and most felt that the world had violated a compact: The Olympics were supposed to elicit praise, not condemnation.

Those feelings of betrayal are summed up in a hugely popular poem that popped up on the Internet in March, called "Chinese Grievances." The verses come across as an eloquent but passive-aggressive rant: "When we closed our doors, you launched the Opium War to open our markets. / When we embraced free trade, you blamed us for stealing your jobs." (See complete poem in sidebar.)

China's sensitivity to the attitudes of foreigners is nothing new. For the past decade, mass expressions of national cohesion have always derived from a shared sense of victimhood at the hands of other countries. Young Chinese united to protest against the United States for bombing China's embassy in Belgrade in 1999 (accidentally, says Washington) and after a collision between a

U.S. spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet in 2001; against Japan several times, most recently in 2005 in remembrance of atrocities committed in China a half-century ago; and against France because of pro-Tibet demonstrations that disrupted the journey of the Olympic torch.

The Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989 was a rare exception, as much of China united against the government instead of a foreign power. But the focal point of the nation's cohesion was still opposition, and afterward, the government accused "foreign elements" of hoodwinking Chinese students into a plot to divide and weaken the country.

Go back further in time, and the pattern holds. All Chinese schoolchildren learn that modern China was born during a nationwide student movement that began in May 1919 to protest the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I and turned Germany's colonial holdings in China over to Japan instead of restoring them to Beijing's control. In the century before that, European powers started various wars against China to control parts of the country, including Hong Kong, which the Qing emperor ceded to Britain "in perpetuity" in 1842.

No one questions China's suffering at the hands of colonial powers. Yet China won't emerge as a confident, modern nation until it knocks the historical chip off its shoulder, and that won't happen until it generates a sense of national unity from within. The earthquake in Sichuan was nothing if not tragic, but its long-term effects may prove beneficial, even cathartic, as they help China shape its modern identity without resorting to foreign scapegoats.

For one thing, many Chinese draw genuine pride from their government's response, at least so far. The quake hit one of China's most remote and inaccessible regions. Local officials stayed on the job, put preexisting emergency plans into operation and coordinated their activities far better than might have been expected in a developing country—or many developed ones. At the scene, the encouragement that Premier Wen Jiabao shouted through a bullhorn and whispered to survivors, at one point telling terrified orphans that the government would care for them, struck a Bill Clinton-like note.

For another, China's media have used their expanding freedoms to deliver stories of heartbreak and relief without turning the rescue effort into a flag-waving propaganda exercise—at least not yet. One hopes that this new spirit of openness will enable China's journalists to investigate possibly shoddy construction and whether the troops dispatched to the region were properly equipped. Nonetheless, what I saw on Chinese TV last week was far superior to the coverage

See CHINA on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

More of 101 Business Ideas for the Saipanpreneur

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The response to last week's 101 Business Ideas article was so great, we're going to do it again!

So here we are at a point of transition here in the CNMI. While things may look dismal to some, there are pockets and pools of opportunity just waiting to be developed. Tips for spotting opportunity include looking to the laws recognizing the trends, following the leaders, listening to the talk, watching the prices and consulting your own intuitive, passion-centered crystal ball. The following are some MORE random Saipan-specific, Tinian-targeted and Rota-rooted business ideas, products and services to get you thinking.

Some business opportunities are of short duration, some are seasonal, profitable until the local economy improves, global economic conditions shift, the consumer market gets saturated, the seasons change or fads pass.

These ideas are meant to start the dialog and the questions necessary to explore their full potential and viability. Some may result in full-fledged business ventures, while others may result in additional products and services that existing businesses can use to focus on particular trends and improve their bottom line.

As you explore each idea, here's my advice for taking advantage of trends, positioning yourself profitably, and moving with the flow of prosperity. While not necessary for starting each and every type of business, these things are applicable to ANY venture and can greatly improve your chances of success.

a. It is imperative that you think globally. Think about how you can buy from or sell to markets outside of Saipan.

b. It is imperative that you utilize technology. Think about how your business model can be optimized using the internet, cellular communications, and other technology.

1. IDEA: Export!**LAW: Saipan Free Trade Zone; TREND: Globalization**

What can we grow here for export? Markets exist worldwide, including our immediate neighbors Japan, Australia and the mainland United States, and other islands. Right now, coffee is being grown here on Saipan. Shrimp is being grown here and is already being exported. Noni is being grown here and exported as well. You can join the bandwagon, or start your own.

2. IDEA: Business Plan Writing!**TREND: Shift toward entrepreneurial pursuits.**

Hey, if enough people right here on Saipan follow the trend, you'll have a great client base right here. If not, there'll still be people worldwide who'll need a well-constructed business plan.

3. IDEA: Agricultural consultant**TREND: "Greening of Global Consciousness"**

Do you know some innovative ways to increase crop yields? Do you know how to identify, nurture and develop fertile soil? Do you have some sustainable, "green" non-chemical pest control solutions? Such expertise can be marketed here as well as overseas quite easily.

4. IDEA: Diversity Consultant**TREND: Offshoring, Outsourcing, Changing ethnicity of workforce.**

You may not realize it, but by just living and working here on Saipan, you have more international experience than many mainlanders who are exposed to a very limited work pool. What are the cultural differences among Chinese, Filipinos, Koreans, Japanese and Thais that people need to know if they are growing a workforce, an organization or even a government? Think you know? Then offer it for a fee!

5. IDEA: Optimize China!**TREND: China is growing as a consumer market.**

This one is wide open. As more and more Chinese embrace capitalism (whether for good or bad), there exist opportunities to sell an increasing number of products and services there.

6. IDEA: Learn a trade!

Within the next few weeks, Saipan will be blessed with its very own trade school. Motivated individuals will be able learn plumbing, carpentry, bricklaying, and more. Once the training and apprenticeship is completed, however, you are not obligated to work for someone else for the rest of your life. Start your own business, or better yet, start your own trade school!

7. IDEA: Ghostwriting!

What can you from the comfort of your home, on your own terms, during the hours that work best for you to generate income? What service could you market internationally which wouldn't require any major investment? Well, if you have a computer and have access to the internet, one thing that comes to mind is being a ghostwriter. There are many people who have a lot to say in articles, books or speeches, but don't feel they have the desire, skill or time to sit and write it all. That's where you come in. If you have a talent for writing, you can offer your services to individuals, other authors, busy professionals, and just about anyone who's always wanted to write, but would rather not. Check out elance.com for one place to offer your services.

8. IDEA: Search Engine Optimization!

People launch websites everyday. Few websites actually rise from the obscurity of the internet to place high in the search engine listings for a particular search. (See where my site welovesaipan.com, launched a year ago, places in a search for "saipan" on google.com) If you know the secrets to optimizing search engine ranking, you can offer the benefit of your knowledge to others. This is also one of those services that doesn't require anything but a computer, internet access, and the time and desire to get good at it!

9. IDEA: Indigenous Culture Consultant

EVERYDAY: You live it every day, but never thought it had value. But think about it. Being of Chamorro or Carolinian descent in America is a unique perspective that not everyone can claim experience living. There are people right now selling their expertise as "Native American Healers." Here's an excerpt from an actual website's home page:

"...I have gained a considerable amount of knowledge about ecosystems, sustainable resources, environmental protection and recovery and what some professionals in the discipline now called (IK) Indigenous Knowledge or (TEK) Traditional Environmental Knowledge. I am willing to share this unique and specialized cultural knowledge (combined with my formal academic background and credentials) to Indian Tribes, Tribal Governments, Indian Organizations, Environmental Agencies and Organizations, education programs, and governmental agencies on a Consultant Fee Basis."

So, as an Indigenous Knowledge Consultant, you can earn money for writing articles, conducting training workshops, research, speaking engagements and your marketing advice. And you don't even need to be a good writer, since there's probably a ghostwriter right here on island you can use! And, who knows, you may qualify for government or organizational grants for native-owned businesses.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

10. IDEA: The Homeland Connection TALK: "There's no place like home!"

And speaking of local culture, I've been uploading videos to YouTube.com shot with my little hand-held digital camera. (www.YouTube.com/passionprophet) Entitled "A Drive Through Saipan," "A Drive Through Marpi" and "A Drive Through San Antonio" as well as others, they are simply 2 or 3 minute videos taken while driving through various parts of Saipan. Every few weeks, I receive comments like this from former residents now living abroad:

■ *"...watching ur vids on saipan hits me hard in da chest. now im homesick. thanks though =]"*

■ *"Man i thank you for posting this video..i miss my island and this just makes me happy to see the sights..thanks"*

■ *"nikko hotel && la fiesta...danggg...San Roque && As Matuis iz ma home town village...ahhh man i'm jus tearin up right now jus by watchin dis...man i miss saipan....thanks 4 the postin"*

■ *"Interesting video for someone who hasn't been home since 1988. If I had not seen it with my own eyes on your video and someone had told be there was an actual traffic light on Saipan, I would NEVER have believed it! My my how things change. I don't recognize my home anymore."*

Sound like a business or product opportunity to you? Now what product or service could we offer these homesick Chamorros, Chamorritas, Carolinians and others who've been here and miss it terribly? I'm open for ideas!

Recap:

Our growing list of business ideas now includes: driver education school and support services, worm farm, factory repackaging, vehicle retrofitting, culture-specific goods, grant writing, paradise products, virtual assistant/business support, rent and repair, re-boxing, diversity consultant, agricultural consultant, exporting, fishing supplies, ghostwriting, search-engine optimization, China optimization, images of home, indigenous culture consultant.

Whether or not all these ideas are immediately viable for you in particular or here on Saipan, Tinian and Rota needs to be investigated and determined. However, they might offer a starting point for the savvy, opportunity-seeking entrepreneur to begin asking the right questions. Stay tuned for more in the 101 Business Ideas series!

Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination! —Walt

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com

WHO'S

From Page 10

Terms of service online are routinely breached, sometimes unwittingly, sometimes deliberately. Violations include checking work e-mail from home (most residential broadband ser-

vices forbid business uses) and submitting fake personal information when posting comments online. If a terms-of-service violation were all it took to bring federal charges, overly zealous prosecutors would be in a position to indict just about anyone who used the Internet.

Megan's story is tragic, and it's easy

to see why prosecutors might want to stretch federal law to fill the gap evidently left by the Missouri penal code. (In her defense, Drew has told authorities that she was simply trying to find out what rumors Megan might have been spreading about her daughter online, and that she had no direct involvement in the messages. One of the girls

who participated in the alleged conspiracy has admitted to sending the last message to Megan, which said in part that "the world would be a better place without you in it.") Nevertheless, the anti-hacking statute is a poor choice, and Los Angeles is the wrong venue.

State laws against cyber-bullying and other forms of harassment are de-

signed to draw the line that separates death threats, stalking and other injurious behavior from deceptive but legal speech. It's an important distinction that the federal statute ignores, and it shouldn't be lost in the outrage over Megan's death.

© 2008, Los Angeles Times

CHINA

From Page 10

of flood relief on the Yangtze River 10 years ago, which was cynically mar-

shaled to burnish the reputation of the People's Liberation Army.

These encouraging aspects of Chinese unity have become visible to a world that is most familiar with less admirable characteristics, such as the

nation's inability to understand why Tibetans might have their own poetic list of grievances. Given the devastation afflicting Sichuan, it's healthy for the Chinese to turn inward right now. Suddenly, not even the Olympics look

very important. Even the government has recognized this by scaling back the torch relay, which had been so maligned overseas and so triumphal at home. China shouldn't need to prove anything to the world anymore. By






seeing its people through the Sichuan tragedy, it has proven enough to itself.

Matthew Forney, a former Beijing bureau chief for Time, is writing a book about raising his family in China.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers becoming mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲80 ▼72

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲63 ▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲88 ▼64
Hong Kong	Rain	▲82 ▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲82 ▼73
London	Cloudy	▲71 ▼53
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼58
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲60 ▼47
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▼77
New York	Showers	▲62 ▼49
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼62
Paris	Cloudy	▲71 ▼53
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲78 ▼60
Rome	Cloudy	▲70 ▼53
Salem	Showers	▲58 ▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61 ▼49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲66 ▼52
Tokyo	Sunny	▲82 ▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼50

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:39AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:10AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:42PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:55PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

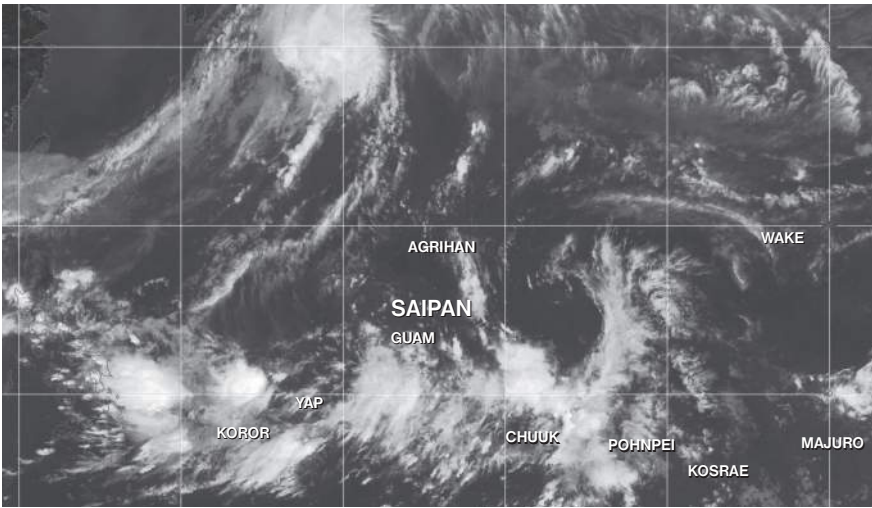
Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:40PM
Thursday	5:47AM	6:41PM
Friday	5:47AM	6:41PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:41PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:42PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:45PM	6:13AM
Thursday	8:36PM	7:02AM
Friday	9:26PM	7:54AM
Saturday	10:13PM	8:47AM
Sunday	10:56PM	9:40AM

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from 13N130E to a weak circulation centered at 11N136E to end at EQ165E. Divergence aloft is combining with winds converging near and south of the trough to cause scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror between 5N and 12N from 130E to 139E and also just south of Guam between 8N and 13N from 140E to 154E. Convergent low-level winds near the eastern portion of the trough are combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 4N and 11N from 154E to 160E. This area includes Pohnpei. Scattered showers are also found south of Kosrae between the equator and 4N from 160E to 166E. Finally, convergent west winds south of the trough are creating scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 3N from 148E to 159E. A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 20N130E to 25N137E. Scattered showers are found along the front and northward to beyond 25N. A warm front extends southeastward from 25N153E to 23N166E then continues as a cold front to beyond 25N at 175E. Scattered showers spread along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east and north of Majuro between 8N and 11N from 169E to 174E and between 4N and 8N from 174E to 180.

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Marine monument—the benefits (it's not all about the fishing)

The views expressed by the WESPAC representatives in their letter “No need to federalize protection of Northern Islands” (*Tribune*, May 15) is yet another indication of how too narrow a view makes it easy to miss the big picture. They say we don't need a monument, that they are doing just fine regulating our waters. The letter goes on to talk about all the regulatory changes WESPAC has had a hand in and although it's an impressive resume, for the purpose of the monument, it really does not matter.

But, before I explain why, let me first say that, specifically with regards to the CNMI waters, I'm not familiar with anyone suggesting WESPAC has not done a decent job. I can't honestly say one way or the other. It has been pointed out that WESPAC has had problems with their recommendations and practices in other areas of the world but, again, none of that really matters in our case because it's not just about the fishing issue!

Especially when you look at all the potential benefits of the marine monument proposal. Some benefits are more tangible than others. Some speculative, some dependent on just how much funding comes along each year. Some will have a global reach; some will affect local lives directly on a daily basis. Some may not be noticeable for hundreds of years when the area in question remains one of Earth's untouched natural wonders.

Little of it has anything to do with fishing.

Yes fishing is an issue. Or rather how we fish is an issue. Do we want commercial fishing fleets trying to sustainably harvest those waters or maintain them as they are for generations of islanders to experience as their ancestors once did? In my last letter to the editor “Marine monument—let's talk eh!” I tried to point out that it is more about balance and hedging our bets rather than pointing blame or fighting over turf. By allocating 1/3 of the asset to a certain management method while leaving 2/3 to be managed in a different way, we protect ourselves from the catastrophe that could happen should our current, all eggs in one basket, mentality fail.

Wait, I digress again. I said there was more to this than the fishing. That's right, the benefits Mr. Gourley has been missing at the presentations and in the numerous letters written in support of the park.

1. Free, instant, world-wide recognition

We are THE pin in the map. We won't have the limelight forever but the pin will never fall out. To put this into perspective, I've sat in the room where MVA marketing people have looked at landing Survivor or the Amaz-

ing Race as their big ticket for our tourism industry. How do you think that one time event would compare to National Geographic specials, Discovery Channel, hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, all with a positive spin. By the way, we will get this even if Congress didn't fund a penny more than they do now and the “park” sat there as it does now.

But, this is just the beginning. What about when new scientific discoveries come from the increased research that is also likely. Imagine if one day it is a local kid from NMC (Northern Mariana College) who's the first to discover a new species of deep-water nudibranch or films the mating ritual of gigan-

for this challenge and perhaps even steal some of that spotlight from our neighbors.

3. Jobs

Yes jobs, real jobs. I realize this can't really be promised until money is appropriated from Congress but two things have been pointed out by our Pew lobbyist during the presentations John's slept through. First, the Congressional budgets being appropriated for the sanctuaries and the bodies that govern them have been increasing over the years and there is no reason to think this won't continue. Hawaii received \$18 million in its first full year. Shaking a stick at even half that seems pretty silly. Next, in each case where a

NOAA sends a boat out here every now and again. It stops in port for a few days where crew get off while provisions and equipment for weeks out at sea are purchased and loaded. I don't know exactly how much money each one of these types of surveys would bring in but something is better than nothing. Then again we just had a crew of five marine archaeologists on island for over a month and they ate out nearly every meal and rented condos at the Flame Tree Terrace so it really could add up to something more than nothing pretty darn quick.

Now imagine if the college could be on board with all of this. Along with the sense of pride that comes with being

and enforce that vast an area.

Following a similar model to Hawaii the monument would be co-managed by the NOAA sanctuaries program and a local CNMI body. This would, in effect, give the CNMI a say in the waters it currently does not have ownership of. The status of the monument should also bring an increase in funding for protecting the area. Again no guarantees but do we really think they'll designate a monument and then give us nothing? That's kind of setting things up to fail, which I really don't think is the intention. With the increased military buildup in Guam I don't think it would be a stretch for the Feds to agree to something that funds increased patrols in

to the Northern island monument where traditional sailing and navigational methods were utilized and tested. In school, kids would eagerly take in what they could knowing they'll need the skills to make a journey of a lifetime. To fish for big fish along the way just as their grandparents showed them. Sound too corny and far-fetched? Maybe, but without implementing this type of concept it is only a matter of time before the traditional ways will be nothing more than black and white paper and a few color photographs thrown in for good measure.

7. High-end adventure tourism

As I said earlier, there is no reason to believe that the marine monument would see that many tourists enter its boundaries. However, depending on the final regulations and terms of use for the park it is possible that a profitable eco-adventure tourism program could be established or even the possibility of seasonal live aboard dive charters. Tourist paying for this kind of trip would likely be considered high-end, just the type MVA is trying to market to now. Is it possible? Without a monument designation it would be a lot more difficult. It is a known fact that many potential tourists consider world heritage sites as a reason to venture to certain areas. This draw cannot be ignored especially in Japan, our largest tourist market. It should also not be ignored that there are many very well-off individuals that might just spend a bundle to put their own pin on their own map directly on top of us.

8. Where is Saipan?

Have you heard of the Marianas Trench Monument (MTM)? Yeah that's right, in the Pacific close to Japan! You have heard of us then!

So, as you can see, even with just these examples it's not all about the fishing. To the good folks at WESPAC please don't take the loss of turf so personally. It's not really that we all think you're doing a horrible job; it's just that we can all do better by looking at the bigger picture and perhaps even working together. The people of the CNMI deserve the opportunity to look at this proposal and make an informed decision.

Next up I'll give my two cents worth on what I think is the biggest “issue” facing the monument as it tries to move forward into the psyche of the general public.

Why now!

Mike Tripp
Producer / Director
The Underwater World of Saipan
President
Marianas Dive

Given the distance to travel, it is unlikely that many tourists will actually venture to the physical monument boundaries.

However, almost all visitors to our islands would pay to visit an interpretive center where among other things they would get to walk through a cross section of the Marianas Trench.

If it were a free pass, we'd still have the funding to run the center and jobs to offer our residents. MVA said there were 31,174 Saipan visitors last month. At 10 bucks a head that's \$311,740 per month. But, you say, they won't all go.

OK lets take \$150,000 a month, not including souvenirs and other add-ons, that's \$1.8 million a year!

tic squid from her submersible. I could go on and on about the increased and continued exposure this designation would bring, but there are many other benefits to talk about.

2. Protecting our planet—conservation

Some don't like this as a benefit. They see it as too fluffy and an environmental Nazi-like attitude. Or they just want to take it all now and don't care what they leave behind for their kids. But luckily, as our planet suffers and the signs and symptoms become that much more obvious, more and more focus will fall towards how we can save what we have. To say it is becoming trendy to be environmentally conscious would be an understatement even now. Don't think this type of thinking is important or that it can't be positive for our islands then perhaps you need to sit down and have a chat with the president of Palau. He started the Micronesian Challenge and will be remembered forever for it. In fact, he may end up getting some sort of Nobel-type prize for his efforts in due time. I'm pretty sure designation of a marine monument site here would help the CNMI meet and exceed our own responsibilities

monument or national park has been designated there has been construction of a world class, top-notch visitors interpretive center. In the case of the CNMI, this alone would be huge.

Given the distance to travel, it is unlikely that many tourists will actually venture to the physical monument boundaries. However, almost all visitors to our islands would pay to visit an interpretive center where among other things they would get to walk through a cross section of the Marianas Trench. If it were a free pass, we'd still have the funding to run the center and jobs to offer our residents. MVA said there were 31,174 Saipan visitors last month. At 10 bucks a head that's \$311,740 per month. But, you say, they won't all go. OK lets take \$150,000 a month, not including souvenirs and other add-ons, that's \$1.8 million a year!

4. Increased research and opportunities for higher education

It's been seen in Hawaii already. Again, according to our Pew lobbyist, the number of research vessels conducting work there has significantly increased since their monument was established.

known for something special like the marine park, developing a world class marine sciences program would go a long way to ensuring kids graduate with sought after skills. Best of all once they graduate they wouldn't necessarily have to go off island to find a job since they could be employed directly or indirectly through the park.

5. Submerged lands and co-management

I put this under a benefit even though this is one of the issues those against the monument are using to say it's a bad idea. There was a court case back a number of years ago where it was ruled that the CNMI did not have jurisdiction over the waters out to the 200-mile limit. The state vs. federal fight over this has gone on with all the territories and the state of Hawaii. Nowhere has the state or territory ever gotten full control of the 200-mile limit. In the case of the CNMI right now, there is no ownership of the waters around the islands in question. The area is managed by Fish and Wildlife and the NOAA office here on Saipan and without a coast guard cutter it's pretty hard for any of them to patrol, protect

the area. I certainly doubt such a concept would be frowned upon by homeland security.

6. Cultural Preservation

This is always such an interesting concept. As cultures all around the world get swallowed up in the global mixing of the human race what defines a persons culture will become more and more difficult to determine and hang on to. If the idea is to preserve and nurture those things that are important to the indigenous peoples then they must be exercised and received by the younger generations with enthusiasm and pride. I didn't get to see a lot of the performances at this year's Flame Tree Festival but what I did see was many island cultural dancers going through the motions. When there is energy and pride these dances and the people performing them are beautiful to watch. When there is no pride outside influences will win and no matter how strong the desire by a few is otherwise, traditional ways will become extinct.

Not that this next concept requires the designation of a monument but again it would make more sense with one. What if there was some type of voyage

Business

Index: Weak economy may dodge a recession

NEW YORK (AP)—Gas prices are high, food's more expensive and the job market's cold, but the U.S. may still avoid a recession.

That was the message Monday from a private business group whose index of leading economic indicators defied expectations and inched higher in April.

The New York-based Confer-

ence Board said its forecast of future economic activity rose 0.1 percent in April, matching a 0.1 percent increase in March. Economists had expected a 0.1 decrease in April.

The index is designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months based on 10 economic components, including stock prices, building permits and initial claims for

unemployment benefits.

"These data certainly reflect a weak economy but not one in recession," said Ken Goldstein, labor economist at The Conference Board. The small increases in March and April, which followed five months of decline, could be a signal the economy may not weaken further, he said.

Stocks rose in afternoon

trading, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 133.53, or 1.03 percent, to 13,120.33. The Standard & Poor's 500 was up 13.16, or 0.92 percent, to 1,438.51 and the Nasdaq composite index rose 18.02, or 0.71 percent, to 2,546.87.

Six of ten leading indicators the Conference Board measures rose in April, including stock prices, interest rate spreads and

housing permits. Those increases more than offset the sharp declines in average weekly hours worked and consumer spending.

The six-month rate of decline for April, which economists look to as a predictor of recessions, was negative 1.2 percent, which points to sluggish growth at best, said economist Dana Saporta of German investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort.

Pump prices rise to new high as oil extends gains

NEW YORK (AP)—More gas and oil records fell Monday as retail fuel prices struck new highs and crude settled above \$127 for the first time, tightening the squeeze on drivers planning holiday road trips next weekend.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery jumped 76 cents to settle at a record \$127.05 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices rallied at one point to within a nickel of Friday's record trading high near \$128 a barrel.

Meanwhile, Americans are now paying an average of \$3.79 for a gallon of regular gas, according to a survey by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Diesel, used to transport a wide range of goods, now costs \$4.52 a gallon. Those prices, both records, are likely to keep rising, following crude's upward track.

"We're looking at \$4 a gallon (for regular nationwide) once we get past Memorial Day and into June, given the oil prices we're seeing today," said Geoff Sundstrom, fuel price analyst at AAA.

In Pittsburgh, some drivers said they had been forced to adjust their spending habits because of higher prices at the pump, which are up about 17 percent from a peak at this time last year.

Rose Bonesso, a nonprofit worker, said the rising cost of gas has "hugely" affected her spending, and that she was trying to make fewer car trips from her suburban home.

"I definitely think a lot more before I either go to Starbucks or do anything like that because I know, all right, I've got at least \$40 to \$45 I've got to put in my tank this week," she said while buying gas on Pittsburgh's South Side.



This April 30, 2008 file photo shows an exterior view of Yahoo headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. AP

Microsoft-Yahoo talks driven by specter of Icahn, Google

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Just two weeks after breaking off merger talks, Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc. have been pulled back to the bargaining table by their fears about what might happen if they don't work out a deal.

For now, Microsoft and Yahoo are still dancing around the edges as they explore possible business arrangements without melding the two companies.

The notion of a half-baked deal didn't excite investors Monday as they got their first chance to react to Sunday's news that Microsoft and Yahoo are talking again.

Yahoo shares rose a scant 0.7 percent, or 2 cents, to close at \$27.68 on Monday, while Microsoft shares fell 1.8 percent, or 53 cents, to close at \$29.46.

But most analysts remain convinced the preliminary talks will culminate in Microsoft buying Yahoo for somewhere between \$33 to \$37 per share, a price that translates to \$47.5 billion to \$53 billion.

Both Microsoft and Yahoo issued statements Sunday acknowledging they haven't ruled out the possibility of a merger even though they aren't discussing one now.

Although their discussions

fell apart this month in a disagreement over price, both Yahoo and Microsoft have powerful incentives to reach a compromise within the next few weeks.

If Yahoo doesn't stop demanding \$37 per share, its board could be overthrown in a shareholder mutiny led by activist investor Carl Icahn.

To pressure Yahoo into reviving the talks, he has nominated an alternate slate of 10 directors scheduled to stand for election at Yahoo's July 3 annual meeting. Icahn didn't respond to a request for comment Monday.

JAL Economy Class service improvements on Hawaii routes

JAL Economy Class service will be enhanced on Hawaii routes on all flights departing from Japan. As these flights depart Japan late at night and arrive early morning into Hawaii, JAL will offer in economy class a light, healthy evening meal, a tasty snack for breakfast passengers can eat anytime they want, as well as a handy amenity kit with all the essentials to help get a good night's sleep.

Next month, JAL will start serving a delicious evening meal created in collaboration with

Soup Stock Tokyo. Soup Stock Tokyo is a popular chain of eateries in Japan specializing in soups made only from natural ingredients free of artificial flavorings or preservatives. The main dish of the new meal will be one of Soup Stock Tokyo's filling, wholesome soups. Soups will be changed approximately every 3 months. Onion gratin soup with croutons will be served from June to August, and lobster sauce pasta soup from September to November.

The meal will include a healthy, low calorie side dish

of tasty, fresh vegetables. For dessert, passengers can enjoy dorayaki, traditional fish-shaped Japanese pancakes filled with sweet azuki bean paste.

A light meal is normally served an hour or so before arrival in Hawaii. As part of the service enhancements, this snack will now be provided soon after the main evening meal, so passengers can choose when to eat it. From June, the snack served will be a blueberry-flavored bagel made by BAGEL & BAGEL of Japan.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,997.40 Down 37.60 (-0.62%)	HONG KONG 25,255.23 Down 487.00 (-1.89%)	JAKARTA 2,510.96 Up 42.12 (+1.71%)
TOKYO 14,140.02 Down 129.59 (-0.91%)	K. LUMPUR 1,300.67 Up 6.52 (+0.50%)	MANILA 2,896.15 Up 18.69 (+0.65%)
SINGAPORE 3,194.25 Down 13.18 (-0.41%)	SEOUL 1,859.88 Down 25.49 (-1.35%)	BANGKOK 635.36 Up 5.00 (+0.79%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
 13,028.16
 +0.32%

NASDAQ
 2,516.09
 -0.50%

S&P
 1,426.63
 +0.09%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0437
British Pound	0.5123
Canadian Dollar	0.9912
Chinese Renmbi	6.9806
Euro	0.6439
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8007
Indian Rupee	42.625
Indonesian Rupiah	9,305
Japanese Yen	104.11
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2527
New Zealand Dollar	1.2942
Philippine Peso	42.995
Singapore Dollar	1.3688
South Korean Won	1044.15
Swiss Franc	1.0508
Taiwan Dollar	30.542
Thailand Baht	32.15

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

BUSINESS BRIEFS

8 ex-AOL Time Warner executives charged

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Monday said eight former executives of AOL Time Warner Inc. fraudulently inflated the company's online advertising revenues by more than \$1 billion between 2000 and 2002. Four of the executives have agreed to settle the civil charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission by paying a total of roughly \$8 million in fines and returning allegedly ill-gotten gains. They are David Colburn, Eric Keller, Jay Rappaport and James MacGuidwin, who was controller of the media company. The other three were in its business affairs unit. The SEC charges are pending against the other four: John Michael Kelly, former AOL Time Warner chief financial officer; Joseph Ripp, ex-chief financial officer of the AOL division; Steven Rindner, a former senior executive in the business affairs unit, and Mark Wovsaniker, former head of accounting policy.

Campbell profit up on Godiva sale, adjusted earnings fall

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. (AP)—Declining soup sales and higher prices for ingredients contributed to a difficult quarter for the Campbell Soup Co., even though a gain on the sale of its Godiva Chocolatier brand sweetened its bottom line. Its shares fell more than 6 percent Monday. The Camden-based food company earned \$532 million, or \$1.40 per share, in the three months ended April 27. That was up from \$217 million, or 55 cents a share, a year ago. But the latest results include the \$850 million sale of Godiva to Yildiz Holding AS. After taxes, Campbell had a \$467 million gain on the sale. Excluding one-time items—including receipts from the March 18 Godiva sale, which was partially offset by the cost of previously announced restructuring—Campbell said its earnings were \$165 million, or 43 cents per share, down 7.8 percent from an adjusted \$179 million, or 45 cents per share, a year ago.

Nation

Obama to reach delegate milestone Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama will reach a significant milestone Tuesday as he marches toward the Democratic nomination for president—a majority of pledged delegates at stake in all the primaries and caucuses.

Obama will still be short of the overall number of delegates needed to clinch the nomination, unless he were to suddenly receive an avalanche of endorsements from the party and elected officials known as superdelegates. But the Illinois senator's

campaign is touting the delegate milestone as a big step in defeating his rival, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

"A clear majority of elected delegates will send an unmistakable message—the people have spoken, and they are ready for change," Obama campaign manager David Plouffe wrote in a memo to supporters Monday.

"As we near victory in one contest, the next challenge is already heating up," Plouffe wrote. "President Bush and Senator McCain have begun

coordinating their attacks on Barack Obama in an effort to extend their failed policies for a third term."

Obama picked up the endorsement of Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia Monday, less than a week after Clinton overwhelmingly won the state's primary. Byrd is the longest serving member of the U.S. Senate.

Obama has led in pledged delegates since he won the first caucuses in Iowa on Jan. 3. The two candidates stayed close through Super Tuesday, when

Democrats voted in 22 states and American Samoa. Obama won 13 more delegates than Clinton that day—out of nearly 1,700 at stake.

Obama built an imposing lead the following two weeks, winning 11 straight contests in states such as Louisiana, Maryland, Washington and Virginia. He led by 161 pledged delegates on Feb. 19, after victories in Wisconsin and Hawaii. The lead has been relatively unchanged ever since as the candidates spent the past three months trading victories.

Former Clinton aide, Obama strategist in talks

NEW YORK (AP)—A top strategist for Barack Obama has reached out to Hillary Rodham Clinton's former campaign manager about joining forces for the general election, the latest sign of political reconciliation between the two rivals as Obama begins consolidating his position as the likely Democratic nominee.

Obama strategist David Axelrod and former Clinton aide Patti Solis Doyle confirmed they had had informal conversations about how she might help the Illinois senator if he secures the presidential nomination as expected. The conversations were first reported on the Politico Web site.

"When the time comes, if we're the nominee, we're going to want to work with talented people across the party including those who worked for Senator Clinton," Axelrod said. "Patti's a good and talented person, and we all have a high regard for her."

He added, "No specific offers have been proffered, and none has been accepted. This is not an official entreaty from one campaign to another."

Solis Doyle hails from Chicago, Obama's home turf, and met Axelrod 20 years ago while working in city government there. Her brother, Danny Solis, is a Chicago alderman.

A longtime Clinton loyalist, Solis Doyle began working as Hillary Clinton's scheduler during her husband's 1992 presidential bid and stayed with her through two terms in the White House. She helped manage the former first lady's first New York Senate bid in 2000, and began laying the groundwork for her presidential bid shortly thereafter.



NIFTY GROOMING TOOL

In this photo released by the Florida Keys News Bureau, a tiny solid gold combination toothpick and earwax scoop is displayed inside a clam shell Monday, May 19, 2008, in Key West, Fla. A Blue Water Ventures salvage diver recovered the artifact Sunday, May 18, about 40 miles west of Key West during a search for remains of the Spanish galleon Santa Margarita that shipwrecked in a 1622 hurricane. According to archaeologists, the 3-inch-long grooming tool is more than 385 years old and was probably worn on a gold chain. Estimated value could exceed \$100,000.

68 pct. of young drivers killed at night unbuckled

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than two-thirds of young drivers and passengers killed in nighttime car crashes aren't wearing seat belts—deadly proof of what can happen when young people don't heed parents' pleas and authorities' threats to "click it."

Though seat belt use actually is rising slightly nationwide, fatality figures published Monday offered a somber contrast as law enforcement launched its annual pre-Memorial Day drive to per-

suaude Americans to buckle up.

Total belt use rose to 82 percent last year—from 81 percent in 2006—the government said. Twelve states had rates of 90 percent or better, led by Hawaii and Washington. Only three were below 70 percent: Arkansas, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

But the news was hardly all encouraging.

Sixty-eight percent of drivers and passengers between the ages of 16 and 20 who were

killed in car crashes at night in 2006 were unbuckled, said the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. During daytime, 57 percent of the young motorists and passengers who were killed were not wearing seat belts.

That portion of the study focused on 2006 data and did not evaluate other years.

The problem isn't just with teens. The percentage of unbuckled drivers and passengers who died at night is well up in

the 60s through the age of 44. It declines to 52 percent for people 55-64 and 41 percent for those older than that.

Safety officials say they are emphasizing seat belt use by young people between 16 and 20 during this year's "Click It or Ticket" publicity campaign through June 1. Police say they will be issuing tickets to motorists who fail to wear their seat belts, a message that will be supported by a \$7.5 million advertising campaign.

Kennedy not expected to return to Senate this week

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy is not expected back at work in the Senate this week, Democratic officials said Monday as doctors searched for the cause of the weekend seizure that sent the 76-year-old lawmaker to the hospital.

There was no word on how

long Kennedy would remain hospitalized. Physicians not involved in his care debated whether the length of his stay was an indication of something more serious or simply an outgrowth of caution in dealing with a prominent patient.

President Bush telephoned

Kennedy at Massachusetts General Hospital with get-well wishes Monday. "Take care of my friend," he told Kennedy's wife, Vicki, according to a family spokesman. The senator was unavailable to take the call.

"The senator and Mrs. Kennedy were very appreciative of

the call," spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said. Over the weekend, Kennedy fielded similar calls from Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and others, while receiving visits from Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, other dignitaries and a stream of family members.



ACROSS THE NATION

Texas sect parents complain of vague custody plans

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Children from a polygamist sect were the only subjects on the docket Monday at a west Texas courthouse where five judges began handling hundreds of hearings that attorneys for the children's parents decried for their cookie-cutter approach. State child welfare officials gave each of the more than 460 children in state custody the same template plan for parents to follow, and judges made few changes. But parents remained without answers to important questions, including whether a requirement that the children live in a "safe" environment means they can't return to the Yearning For Zion Ranch. Donna Guion, an attorney for the mother of a 6-year-old son of the sect's jailed prophet, Warren Jeffs, complained the plans were so vague they would be impossible to satisfy and were contingent on psychological evaluations likely to take weeks more to complete. "This plan is so vague and so broad that my client has no idea what she can do now," Guion said of the boy's mother.

Explosion damages San Diego building site; 13 hurt

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An apparently accidental explosion rocked a Hilton hotel under construction Monday, injuring 13 workers, five of them critically, authorities said. Three of the five in critical condition were in a hospital burn unit and eight other victims had serious-to-minor injuries, fire department spokesman Maurice Luque said. Some workers were burned and others were injured by flying debris, Luque said. The building did not burn after the explosion, which Luque said appeared to be accidental. San Diego Deputy Fire-Rescue Chief Perry Peake said the blast occurred in an area of the building containing gas, electric and other utilities and that it appears to have been caused by a mechanical failure.

Philly police to fire 4 over videotaped beating

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia's police commissioner said Monday that four officers will be fired and four others disciplined for their roles in the beatings of three shooting suspects, an encounter that was captured on videotape and drew widespread outrage. Another eight officers who had physical contact with the suspects will undergo additional training on the department's policies concerning the use of force, Commissioner Charles Ramsey said. He said the police department made the disciplinary decisions after reviewing frames from enhanced tape of a video shot by a television news helicopter on May 5.

Asia

Warning of major aftershock sparks panic in China

CHENGDU, China (AP)—A government warning of a major aftershock sent thousands of panicked survivors running into the darkened streets Monday night following an unprecedented display of mourning for more than 34,000 people killed in a powerful earthquake one week ago.

In shattered Sichuan province, quake-weary residents carried pillows, blankets and chairs from homes into the open or slept in cars after a statement from the National Seismology Bureau was read on television warning that there was a “rather great” chance of an aftershock measuring magnitude 6 to 7. Such jolts could cause major damage.

People in the provincial capital of Chengdu got in their cars and drove east—toward plains and away from the quake zone to the northwest. At intersections outside the city, clusters of people slept on bedrolls. Cars were parked along a service road to a highway, their drivers sleeping on the sidewalk.

In Mianyang, closer to the quake zone, a hospital moved patients into the square outside the rail station, setting up beds, medicine trays and tents.

The alarm compounded uneasiness in the region, which has been rumbled by dozens of aftershocks since the May 12 quake, including one on Monday night measured at magnitude 5.2 by the

U.S. Geological Survey. No damage or injuries were reported.

It came a few hours after China’s more than 1 billion people paused for three minutes of mourning—an observance that previously only honored the death of a top Chinese leader.

At 2:28 p.m., the moment the quake hit, wailing air-raid sirens and the blare of horns from cars, ships and trains signaled the start of the commemoration.

From the broad boulevards of Beijing to the shaken streets of Sichuan province, everyone stood still. Traffic halted in cities, soldiers stood at attention, and people bowed their heads in respect for the dead.

President Hu Jintao led senior government figures in a solemn ceremony televised nationally. Rescuers also briefly halted work in the disaster zone, where hope of finding more survivors was all but gone.

The Olympic torch relay, a potent symbol of national pride in the countdown to the Beijing Games, was suspended.

The occasion demonstrated the profound impact of the quake.

China’s Cabinet said the confirmed death toll rose to 34,073, although it is expected to climb. Another 5,260 remained buried in Sichuan, the provincial government said. Almost 250,000 are injured.

The three-minute commemoration—part of an official three days of mourning—gave the government a chance to recognize and channel the grief of millions who have watched the disaster play out in unusually free coverage by state media.

Yin Pu, a Beijing psychologist, said the depth of feeling that people expressed Monday was a surprise.

“The only thing that was planned was the time, we could not have imagined that it would be so powerful,” said Yin, who is recruiting volunteer counselors to send to the quake zone.

But there were already signs that the unity would be shortlived.



Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, center left, and his first lady Chow Mei-ching, left, wave to a cheering audience with Vice President Vincent Siew and his wife Susan Chu during inauguration ceremonies, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, in Taipei, Taiwan.

Taiwan inaugurates new president

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A proponent of improved ties with China took office as Taiwan’s president Tuesday, elected on promises to seek greater economic cooperation with its larger rival and ease six decades of tensions.

The inauguration of Ma Ying-jeou, 57, Ma represents a clear break from the eight-year presidency of Chen Shui-bian, whose confrontational pro-independence policies often led to friction with Beijing—and with the United States, Taiwan’s most important foreign partner.

Vice president Vincent Siew, 69, was sworn in shortly after Ma, together with Premier Liu Chao-shiuan and his Cabinet.

In contrast to the independence bent of Chen’s Democratic Progressive Party, Ma’s Nationalists have never formally renounced a desire for eventual unification with China, from which Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949.

Fifty-nine years after their split, China still claims Taiwan as part of its territory, and has repeatedly threatened to attack if the island makes its de facto independence permanent.

In a break with his party’s old guard, the 57-year-old Ma has vowed not to negotiate with Beijing about unification during his term of office, which can stretch to 2016, assuming he is re-elected to a second four-year term.

Last week in an interview with The

Associated Press, Ma raised the bar even higher, saying it was highly unlikely that unification talks would be held “within our lifetimes.”

Rather than politics, Ma’s major emphasis has been seeking to tie Taiwan’s powerful but laggard high-tech economy more closely to China’s white-hot economic boom.

He has proposed beginning direct commercial flights across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait and opening Taiwan’s doors to a massive influx of Chinese tourists.

He has also promised to work toward a peace treaty with Beijing, but has kept its prospective contents close to his vest.

WHO chief urges disaster-proof hospitals

GENEVA (AP)—The disasters in China and Myanmar underscore the need to improve construction of hospitals and schools so they can withstand high winds and earthquakes, the head of the U.N. health agency said Monday.

Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, said spending just a little more on construction could mean the difference between a building’s survival and collapse when natural disasters strike.

Chan said millions of people “lost their loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods” in the Myanmar cyclone and Chinese earthquake, adding that she was especially touched by the images of a collapsed school and hospital in China.

“Every death is tragic, but the deaths of students and patients touch me most especially,” she said.

Chan said the World Health Organization already is urging that hospitals and health facilities be built to survive the natural disasters—including intense earthquakes and tropical storms.

“In most cases, a very small increase in construction costs is sufficient to give health facilities this survival capacity,” Chan told the opening of the annual weeklong meeting of the agency’s 193-nation governing assembly.

The assembly began with a minute of silence for those killed in the two disasters.

China and Myanmar gave the World Health Organization upbeat reports Monday on their recovery from recent disasters and thanked international donors for their assistance.

“In just a few seconds, tens of thousands of lives were lost” when an earthquake struck central China last week, Chinese Health Minister Chen Zhu told delegates to the annual meeting.

But national and international response was speedy, Chen said, noting that “many countries have provided hu-

Myanmar opens door to help from Asian neighbors

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar’s junta, facing global outrage for spurning international assistance, appeared to relent Monday, saying it would allow its Asian neighbors to oversee the distribution of foreign relief to cyclone survivors.

It also approved a visit by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and prepared to host a meeting of aid donors, while claiming that losses from the May 2-3 disaster exceeded \$10 billion.

A three-day official period of mourning was to begin Tuesday for the dead, which numbered more than 78,000, according to official figures. Another 56,000 people are missing.

Conditions, especially in the hard-hit low-lying Irrawaddy Delta, remain precarious for survivors, who face disease, malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

Heavy rain fell again Monday, said the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, noting that such weather can have the benefit of providing clean water for those able to catch the downpour with plastic sheeting.

man, technical and material support.”

Health workers have “seized every second in saving lives and in preventing and controlling epidemics,” he said.

“On behalf of the Chinese government I would like to express our gratitude for the ... support of the international community.”

Chinese officials have said they expect the final death toll from the May 12 quake to exceed 50,000.

ASIAN BRIEFS

59 die drinking tainted liquor in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Locally brewed liquor apparently tainted with lethal chemicals killed at least 59 people in southern India over the weekend, police said Monday. Bootleggers began selling the deadly brew on Saturday after police shut authorized liquor shops in parts of

the Karnataka state because of voting for the state government, said Sri Kumar, the state police chief. In India, liquor stores and bars are routinely closed during elections to prevent politicians from handing out free alcohol in a bid to win votes. Since Saturday, 59 people, most of them poor laborers, have died and 17 others were in hospital, said Ku-

mar. Twenty-seven deaths occurred in Bangalore, India’s key information technology hub, and 19 died in the neighboring Kolar district. Another 13 people died in a village just across the state border with Tamil Nadu state, he said.

13 killed in Nepal bus accident, more missing

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A bus carrying Buddhist pilgrims veered off

a mountain road and plunged into a river in western Nepal on Monday, killing at least 13 people, an official said. Several more passengers were missing and presumed drowned. Government administrator Tej Poudel said the bus was overcrowded with Buddhist pilgrims on their way to attend a religious fair when it crashed near Bhaluwang town, about 250 miles southwest of the capital, Katmandu. Poudel said rescuers were

able to pull 38 survivors out of the Rapti river, but many people were still missing and presumed drowned. He said police and soldiers were trying to fish the wreckage out of the river, but the fast current was making their work difficult. The vehicle was almost completely submerged in the water. He said police were still investigating the cause of the accident, but the gravel road was narrow and the bus was overcrowded.

World

France says it's had informal contacts with Hamas

PARIS (AP)—France acknowledged on Monday that it had informal contacts with Hamas, the militant Palestinian group that the United States and the European Union consider a terrorist organization for its campaign of violence against Israel.

Washington swiftly condemned the move, but French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said such contacts are needed to gauge the humanitarian and political situation in the Middle East. He said other European countries had quietly done likewise, a contention supported by Hamas.

The opening, however slight, exposed new discord over how to deal with an extremist group that much of the international community has treated as a pariah since it seized control of the Gaza Strip by force last June. Word of the contacts comes after former President Carter met with Hamas leaders in Syria last month.

It was even more striking because French President Nicolas Sarkozy has embraced Israel since taking office a year ago, in contrast to predecessors who nurtured France's traditionally strong relations with the Arab world. But experts noted Sarkozy has signaled the need for "bridges" in response to Carter's contentious visit.

South Africa seeks to end anti-foreigner attacks

REIGER PARK, South Africa (AP)—Clashes pitting the poorest of the poor against one another have killed 22 people in South Africa and underscored bitter frustration with the government's failure to deliver enough jobs, housing and schools.

Police brought in reinforcements as violence hopped from slum to slum in scenes reminiscent of some of the bloodiest days of apartheid. Most of the victims have been immigrants from Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa living in squatter camps.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu made an impassioned plea Monday for the violence to end. "Please stop. Please stop the violence now," he said in a statement. "These are our sisters and brothers."

11 Iraqi police recruits killed, police say

BAGHDAD (AP)—Suspected Sunni insurgents ambushed a minibus carrying Iraqi police recruits near the Syrian border Monday, killing all 11 passengers, Iraqi officials said—the first deadly attack since Iraqi forces launched a major sweep against al-Qaida fighters in the region.

The hail of gunfire came hours after Iraqi officials said they arrested a man suspected of being al-Qaida in Iraq's chief leader in the northern city of Mosul, the terror network's most prominent urban stronghold.

The attack, the bloodiest in months against police, left the minibus riddled with bullets in the desert west of Mosul, where the crackdown has been centered. Some al-Qaida fighters are believed to have fled the city toward neighboring Syria.

Police discovered the bodies of the police recruits and their minibus near Baaj, a remote town 20 miles from the Syrian border, according to a provincial official in Baaj and a Mosul police officer. The policemen, most from Baaj, were returning from their recruitment camp, they said.

It appeared a large group of insurgents had ambushed the minibus with a spray of gunfire. Nine bodies, including the police driver's, were found still in the vehicle and two on the ground outside, the two officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not



AP
Detainees sit at an Iraqi army base in Mosul, Iraq, Monday, May 19, 2008. Some 1300 people have been detained since the start of the Iraqi army operations in Mosul last week. Mosul, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, has been the most prominent al-Qaida urban stronghold in Iraq.

Palestinians cool to embrace from al-Qaida leader

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—In his latest message, Osama bin Laden portrays himself as the only true defender of the Palestinians. But the Palestinians, even the Islamic militants of Hamas, didn't seem too enthusiastic Monday over the bear hug from the fugitive al-Qaida leader.

The moderate Palestinian government in the West Bank fears its quest for independence could be sullied by perceived links to terrorism. Even the rival Hamas regime in Gaza, labeled a terrorist group by the U.S. and Israel, sees al-Qaida as too extreme.

"Al-Qaida and bin Laden

have caused huge damage to the image of Muslims and Arabs all over the world, and with his frequent statements about the Palestinians he just damages our image," said Nimr Hamad, an adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The Palestinians have a "deep interest in convincing the West-

ern world of the justice of our national cause," Hamad said. If the Palestinians are seen as "on bin Laden's side, we will definitely lose."

Bin Laden's 22-minute speech, posted on an Islamic militant Web site late Sunday, criticized Arab states for not waging war against Israel.

"Those (Arab) kings and leaders sacrificed Palestine and Al-Aqsa to keep their crowns," bin Laden said, referring to the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest sites.

Israel is weak, he charged, but the Arabs have not fought "even a single serious war to get Palestine back."

WORLD BRIEFS

Gore wins \$1 million prize from Israeli group

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Al Gore received a \$1 million prize on Monday for his environmental work from an Israeli fund. The Dan David Foundation awarded the former vice president its annual "present" prize for alerting the world to the crisis from the overuse of fossil fuels. It also gave prizes in "past" and "future" categories. The Nobel laureate received the award at a ceremony at Tel Aviv University. In his address, Gore said, "We do face a planetary emergency. The phrase sounds shrill to many, but it is unfortunately quite accurate." Gore said 10 percent of the prize would go to young researchers and the

rest to the Alliance for Climate Protection, an advocacy group he co-founded and which works to change public opinion worldwide about the urgency of the climate crisis.

Spanish defense minister gives birth to a boy

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Spain's first female defense minister, who drew attention when she was appointed to the post while seven months pregnant, gave birth to a boy on Monday. Carme Chacon, 37, had a 6-pound boy in her hometown of Esplugues de Llobregat near Barcelona, said Dr. Josep Maria Lailla, chief obstetrician at San Joan de Deu Hospital. The doctor said the baby will be

named Miquel, the Catalan version of Miguel, after his father Miguel Barroso. Chacon, who is Catalan, and the baby are both fine, the doctor said. Chacon had been due to testify before Parliament for the first time Tuesday to outline her policy, but the ministry requested a delay after she was admitted to the hospital to give birth.

Zimbabwe party: Military plotting to kill leader

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Zimbabwe's opposition party on Monday accused the country's military of plotting to assassinate presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai using snipers. The Movement for Democratic Change said

Tsvangirai planned to return to Zimbabwe to contest the June 27 runoff election once security measures are in place to protect him. On Saturday, the opposition said it had received details of the alleged assassination plot as Tsvangirai was on his way to the airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, to return home. "The assassination plot involves snipers," party Secretary-General Tendai Biti told The Associated Press after a news conference in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Monday. He said 18 snipers were involved in the alleged plot.

Venezuela protests alleged US plane incursion

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—

Venezuela wants the U.S. ambassador to explain a violation of its airspace by a U.S. Navy plane, the country's foreign minister said Monday. The U.S. Navy plane was detected in Venezuelan airspace Saturday night near the Caribbean island of La Orchila, and questioned by the Caracas airport control tower, Defense Minister Gen. Gustavo Rangel Briceno said. The Navy S-3 Viking, used for counter-narcotics missions, may have accidentally crossed into Venezuela's airspace while experiencing "intermittent navigational problems" on a training mission in international airspace, a U.S. defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the issue's sensitivity.

Campus Life

Investing joins 3 R's at an unusual school

By DAVE CARPENTER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Like their peers elsewhere, the students at a one-of-a-kind public elementary school on the South Side of Chicago are dazzled by pop-culture stars—Beyonce and Common, Kanye West and Lil' Wayne, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

Listen closely to the hallway chatter at Ariel Community Academy, though, and you may hear unexpected references to uncool dudes like Warren Buffett and Bill Gates. After all, these kids have their portfolios to worry about.

The Ariel school is an experiment in financial literacy with real-life oomph: Each incoming first-grade class gets \$20,000 that the children ultimately get to pick stocks for and manage. The goal is to add an I—investing—to the three R's, according to John Rogers Jr.,

ON THE NET

Ariel Community Academy: <http://www.arielmutter-funds.com/content/view/107/1067/>

chairman and chief executive of Ariel Capital Management, the Chicago-based money management firm that established the school in 1996.

At a time when pensions are being phased out and people must rely more on their own investment smarts, Rogers thinks saving and investment should be an integral part of the curriculum at schools across the country.

"It's important to have all the reading and writing and arithmetic skill sets, but we can't think of anything else more important than to be able to be financially viable and competent as you start to build your working career," he said.

Experts say easy credit, aggressive marketing and the dizzying array of financial products and cashless spending options have led many American consumers astray, making it more essential than ever for kids to learn about money.

Iowa State University professor Tahira Hira, a member of the newly formed President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, is among those advocating that personal finance be required teaching at every elementary school.

"People who were brought up with some lesson in saving or borrowing act differently than those who weren't," Hira said. Opening bank accounts for



The Ariel Community Academy is an experiment in financial literacy. Here, students discuss their portfolios and investing in the stock market.

children, buying them stock in a fast-food company or the company that makes their favorite toy, teaching them to spend some, save some and give some away when they receive cash as a gift—"our research shows that all those things do matter," she said.

The Ariel school's success can't be fully judged until its first graduates, now juniors in high school, make their own mark. But high math test scores give it a blue chip reputation and some cachet for its students in a mostly black, high-poverty area.

When eighth grader Victoria Bills talks about investments with her friends, for example, "They're like, 'Oh Victoria, that's like so cool!'" she said. "They're like, 'I want to go to that school.'"

That's music to the ears of the 49-year-old Rogers, who has long put a special emphasis on trying to encourage other African-Americans to save and invest more.

A South Side native, Rogers first got enthused about investing at age 12 when his father began buying him different stocks every birthday and Christmas.

After graduating from Princeton, where he was captain of the basketball team, he started Ariel when he was 24 with his own savings and investments begged from friends and family. Today, it has more than \$13 billion under management in three mutual funds and separate accounts for 89 institutional clients. Rogers is also a close adviser to Sen. Barack Obama, who lives just five blocks down the street from the school in the Kenwood neighborhood.

Inspired by a symposium he attended on financial literacy in the mid-1990s, Rogers had Ariel team with fellow Chicago investment firm John Nuveen & Co. to fund the innovative school program.

The concept is simple: Ariel's experts manage a \$20,000 portfolio for each class until sixth grade, briefing them regularly along the way, and then begin turning over the decisions to the children. Upon graduation from eighth grade, each class returns the initial investment amount to the school for another first-grade class and donates, invests or pockets the profits.

After giving half the gains to community charity programs or school initiatives, each student can then take the rest in cash or invest it in a Section 529 college savings plan, in which case they are given an additional \$1,000. Last year, 80 percent of graduates invested their \$150 shares in a 529.

The financial focus extends well beyond the portfolio at a school where hallways are named after Wall Street and other marketplaces, and students announce the latest business news twice daily over the PA system.

Financial concepts are woven into the curriculum, with first graders learning about core economic principles, for example, while eighth graders put together their own business plans. All 440 students are offered free tutoring from Ariel's professionals on Saturdays, and the older kids have the chance to hear

analyst presentations and attend meetings at McDonald's Corp., where Rogers sits on the board of directors.

There's nothing dry about such schooling to these kids, according to Connie Moran, the school's director of financial education.

"When I say we're going to talk about money today, they don't go 'Eeehttp://www' like some kids might," said Moran, a former bond analyst. "It's like saying we're going to recess—that's never a problem."

Moran said her students soak up financial information like sponges. Besides, she noted, "We don't wait until our students are 16 to teach them how to read. Why wait until they're 16 to teach them how to manage a bank account?"

Twice a week or so, junior boards of directors elected by the seventh and eighth grades gather around a table under a giant mural depicting a bull and bear to discuss their class holdings.

With the whack of a gavel one recent day, they were off and running. The lively discussion touched on everything from the merits of the maker of Ugg boots to their tendency to load up on tech stocks to whether they should profit from companies that make weapons used in the war in Iraq.

Student Jordan Lillybridge likes sitting in the boardroom.

"It gives me an opportunity to express my opinion on which stock we should pick—especially me and Sony, because I am a big fan of Sony," said Lillybridge, who is 12. "Also Panera Bread."

Bills, too, revels in the whole experience, keeping tabs on financial news and monitoring her class' stocks at home.

"When I go to this school I actually feel special, because I'm learning things that most kids probably wouldn't even learn," she said, adding that she hopes to make enough in the market to help her mom.

Rogers, whose company spends nearly \$1 million a year on the school, would love to see it churn out future portfolio managers, accountants and investment bankers. But for now he finds it "absolutely thrilling" just to sit in on the children's discussions about stocks.

Nurturing their education and watching them grow up and have fun with the stock market, he said, is "one of the greatest feelings in the world."

Comparing the programs

University of Cambridge International Examinations

Students can get an Advanced International Certificate of Education by taking six Cambridge courses during their junior and senior years and passing six year-end exams. Students must take at least one course in each of three categories: languages, math and science, and arts and humanities.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

IB students must take six courses in several disciplines, including a foreign language. Typically, students take three two-year courses and three one-year courses. A 4,000-word research paper must be written. Community service must be performed.

Advanced Placement Program

Unlike in the IB or Cambridge program, students in AP can take as few AP courses as they want because it is not a diploma program. There are 37 AP exams.

What are the differences?

Number of standardized courses and exams a student is required to take: In the Cambridge program, students have to pass six courses—three have to be in different disciplines—and pass six corresponding year-end exams. The IB program is similar: Students must pass six courses in several disciplines, and three of the courses must be advanced and last two years; students also have to pass the six corresponding IB year-end exams. Because there is no AP diploma, students can take whatever AP courses and exams they wish.

Which program is the most recognized by U.S. colleges and universities?

About 90 percent of colleges and universities give credit for high scores on AP exams; IB officials say that their program's percentage is lower but that they do not have specific data; Cambridge officials say that at least 500 colleges and universities, including some in the Ivy League, award credit for high marks on Cambridge exams. Students in Cambridge or IB do not have to get their programs' diplomas to get college credit. Credit is given based on performance on individual exams. (© 2007, The Washington Post)



At a time when pensions are being phased out and people must rely more on their own investment smarts, the Ariel Community Academy thinks saving and investment should be an integral part of the curriculum in schools across the country.

Life & Style

Can a woman win 'Dancing With the Stars' crown?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kristi Yamaguchi is clearly the most talented contestant on "Dancing with the Stars." But the question still looms heading into Tuesday's finale: Can a woman win the celebrity dance-off?

Men have won the mirrorball trophy during the show's past four seasons. The only woman to take the "Dancing" crown was Kelly Monaco in season one. With a viewership that's 75 percent women, plus brazen displays of bare skin and sex appeal from current male finalists Jason Taylor and Cristian de la Fuente, the hit ABC show still has plenty of suspense for the final episode.

"You obviously have to get the technique, but (also) compete with the personalities that all the boys have," Yamaguchi told The Associated Press after Monday's performances. "I think their smiles and their personalities melt hearts across the country."

Figure-skating champ Yamaguchi got a perfect score of 60 on Monday's show, and has regularly topped the judges' scoreboard throughout the sixth season of the ABC dance-off. But viewer votes count just as much, and the combination is what determines the winner.

Spice Girl Melanie Brown learned that fact the hard way last season, when the inferior dancer, race-car driver Helio Castroneves, collected more votes and took the title.

"I don't know if it's that women don't vote for women," Brown said Monday. "It's a very strange situation ... But at the end of the day, (Yamaguchi) is a brilliant dancer and so is (her partner), so I think if she doesn't win, that would be really sad."

Judge Carrie Ann Inaba acknowledged Monday that men have fared better on the show.

"The men are more easy," she said while judging one of Yamaguchi's dances. "They have a natural tendency to be more crowd-pleasers. And it's very difficult to keep up with that. But not tonight, girl!"

Still, with history on their side, Taylor and de la Fuente are holding out hope for victory.

"It's not only technique. It's not only being perfect. It's everything," said de la Fuente, who finished with 52 points. "It's having fun. It's enjoying it. You know, we worked hard and hopefully people will appreciate that."

Taylor landed in last place with 51 points Monday, but he's



AP
In this image released by ABC, contestants Kristi Yamaguchi and her partner Mark Ballas perform on "Dancing with the Stars," on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in Los Angeles.

counting on viewers to keep him in the contest.

"We hope we impressed them enough and entertained them enough to get some votes," he said, "but obviously Kristi is a great dancer."

All three finalists cranked up the sex appeal during Monday's finals, incorporating playful spankings into their routines. Yamaguchi also kissed judge Bruno Tonioli on the lips—half-accidentally.

"We were planning to get him on the cheek, but then he turned his head," said her partner, Mark Ballas.

"It was a little more than I expected," Yamaguchi said.

But it fit right in with the night's other sexy moves. The actor de la Fuente began his freestyle dance with a derriere-shake that drew a televised close-up, and the massive football star Taylor ended his routine bare-chested after his partner, Edyta Sliwinska, tore off his shirt.

She admitted she was thinking of the voters when she planned that move.

"The majority of the audience are females and they probably vote a lot more than guys," Sliwinska said. "I guess those beautiful bodies and gorgeous guys make them easy to vote for."

Besides Castroneves, past winners have included NFL star Emmitt Smith, 98 Degrees singer Drew Lachey and Olympic speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno.

"The only thing I'm praying is that the rule doesn't change this season," de la Fuente said. "Next season a woman can win, but hopefully this season a man will win."

Ballas said ballroom dancing is harder for women.

"Everything that we do as men, the women have to do backward, in heels," he said. "The man's role is to be the frame and the girl's role is to be the cape, so the man just has to be strong and stable" while the woman is tossed about the dance floor.

But Brown said it's equally difficult for both genders.

"You've still got to learn dance routines, steps, choreography, the whole thing," she said. "For girls, maybe it's a bit challenging because they are the ones who can get thrown around, but again the guy has to hold the woman up and lead, so they both have different challenges."

Still, she said Yamaguchi "deserves to win without a doubt."

Voters will make that decision on Tuesday night.

Celebrating One Year of Eternal Life

PEDRO L. OLOPAI

We the family, invite our relatives, friends, and those who have known Tata Dung to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Anniversary of his passing to eternal life.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30pm at the San Isidro Chapel in Chalan I Rueda, Gualo Rai and Mass of Intention is being offered every morning at 6:00am at the San Jose Church beginning Saturday, May 17, 2008.

On the final day, May 26, 2008 the Eucharist Mass Celebration will be offered at 6:00am at San Jose Church.

Thank you for your prayers,
The Children and Family

In Humble Gratitude & Sincere Appreciation

We, the family of the late

Tito Cirilo Manahane Muna

Also known as To',

wish to express our humble and heartfelt gratitude, and deep appreciation for the many wonderful and kind relatives, neighbors, friends, co-workers, priest and religious friends who in one way or another have expressed their love for our family during the loss of our beloved. Your prayers, support, condolences, and most especially your presence during our time of sorrow will continue to comfort, inspire, and strengthen us in our healing process.

It is through the sharing of the joy and the fond memories of our beloved that are greatly cherished.

We truly are blessed and appreciate your sincere kindness, comfort, caring attitude, consolation and unending love, all of which will forever remain in the depths of our hearts.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po and Oloomway! May our dear Lord continue to bless each and everyone of you.

WE HUMBLY THANK YOU FROM THE THE DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS,

Erlinda E. Muna (MamaLin)

Maria M. Sablan (Nang)

Alicia M. & Edgardo Olivia (Jesse Jr. & Tito Vincent)

Francisco S. & Lisa Muna (Mae, Mark, Melissa, Franklin)

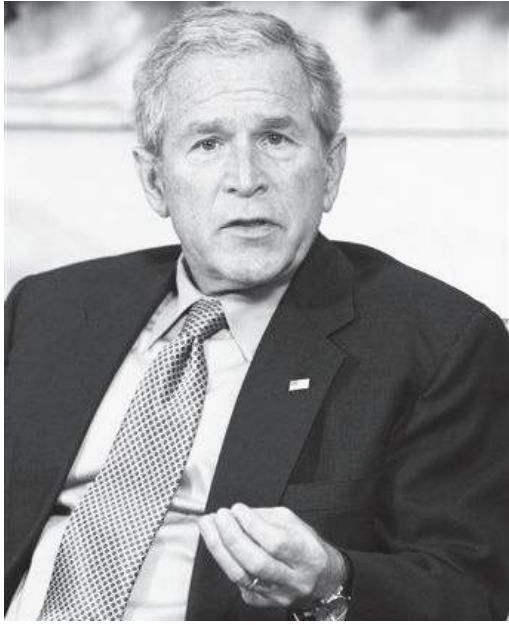
Antonio S. & Marie T. Muna (Regina Marie & Antonio Jesus, Jr.)

Rita M. Del Rosario (David Leonel, Zenas David, Oden David, & Tito David)

Patricia M. & Juan DLG. Aldan (Christina Merced, John, & Ignacio Tito)

Raymond S. & Cecil B. Muna (Rena Ines & Raena Patricia)

White House complains about edit of Bush interview



AP

President Bush speaks to reporters about the economy during his meeting with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, not pictured, Monday, May 19, 2008, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

NEW YORK (AP)—The White House called out NBC News on Monday for what Bush aides called “deceitful” editing of an interview in which the president is asked whether comments about the president of Iran were directed at Barack Obama.

Bush aides were angered by how the president’s answer was portrayed when correspondent Richard Engel questioned him about his address last week to the Israeli Knesset. NBC stood by its treatment of the interview Monday.

Bush had mentioned the president of Iran in his speech, and said: “Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along.”

Obama’s campaign considered that statement an attack on him, which the White House has denied.

Engel asked Bush if he was referring to Obama.

As it appeared on “Nightly News” Sunday and the “Today” show Monday, Bush’s response was: “You know, my policies haven’t changed, but evidently the political calendar has ... And when, you know, a leader of Iran says that they want to destroy Israel, you’ve got to take those words seriously.”

The White House said NBC edited the following passage from between those sentences: “People need to read the speech. You didn’t get it exactly right, either. What I said was that we need to take the words of people seriously.”

Bush counsel Ed Gillespie, in a letter to NBC News President Steve Capus, said that “this deceitful editing to further a media-manufactured storyline is utterly misleading and irresponsible.” He asked that the network air Bush’s response in full on the two programs.

NBC countered by saying the unedited interview has been avail-

able since Sunday on the network’s Web site, and that the reporting accurately reflects the interview. The extra sentences by Bush were included during a report on Sunday’s “Today” show.

“Just as the White House does not participate in the editorial process at the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal or USA Today, NBC News, as part of a free press in a free society, makes its own editorial decisions,” NBC said in a statement.

In NBC’s nightly newscast on Monday, anchor Brian Williams noted that the White House objected to how it presented the Bush interview. That didn’t satisfy Gillespie, who issued another statement moments later. “It’s simply absurd for people to have to log onto the Internet and stream video to get accurate information from NBC News,” he said.

The White House routinely pushes back against news stories it does not agree with. The one against

NBC News stands out for its angry tone and its accusation that the news division deceptively and deceitfully edited the president’s words.

Gillespie brought up some other grievances, too, including NBC News coverage of the Iraq war and the nation’s economic woes. The White House was not happy when NBC News decided to call the situation in Iraq a “civil war”—and called attention to its decision.

Gillespie said NBC News has quietly stopped referring to a civil war in Iraq. Capus said it was better to discuss the other issues “in a more appropriate forum.”

NBC News has angered Democrats this year, too. The Clinton campaign has been unhappy with Chris Matthews and Keith Olbermann, along with NBC Washington bureau chief Tim Russert’s declaration after last week’s primaries that Obama was the Democratic nominee.

Emeril Lagasse to switch to Fine Living network

NEW YORK (AP)—Emeril Lagasse is leaving the Food Network’s prime-time schedule for the Fine Living Network, a move the chef hopes will mean a second course of “Emeril Live!”

The show that combines cooking, music and the chef’s own energetic personality has been a staple of the Food Network’s prime-time lineup since its 1997 debut.

But ratings have tailed off, and last year the Food Network moved the show from 8 p.m. Eastern to 7 p.m. Its average audience has declined from 717,000 three years ago to 579,000 this year, according to Nielsen Media Research.

The Food Network will air reruns of “Emeril Live!” in the afternoon. But corporate sister the Fine Living Network will pick up the show at 7 p.m. starting on July 7.

The show will air seven nights



AP

In this Feb. 20, 2008 file picture, Emeril Lagasse poses for a portrait in New York.

a week in that time slot. In its first week, five original episodes will be shown and, for about two months, a new episode will be shown each Monday while the rest are reruns.

Fine Living is carried in about 50 million homes, fewer

than half the nation’s 110 million homes with television. The Food Network is in more than 90 million.

“As you know in television, things have to evolve and this is a little evolution for me,” Lagasse said.

While his prime-time showcase may be smaller, Lagasse said it represented an opportunity to expand his fan base to people who might not necessarily seek him out. He’ll also be paired on the schedule with Martha Stewart; on weekdays Fine Living airs reruns of Stewart’s syndicated program a day after it’s shown on broadcast television.

“It’s really what I consider to be a network-defining moment for us,” said Bob Baskerville, Fine Living Network president.

Fine Living will be rated by Nielsen Media Research for the first time this fall, and Stewart and Lagasse provide some big draws.

Plea deal in Alejandro Sanz blackmail case

MIAMI (AP)—A husband and wife who once worked for Latin music star Alejandro Sanz took a plea deal Monday just as their blackmail trial was about to start.

Carlos Gonzalez, 38, and 48-year-old Sylvia Alzate admitted making threats of extortion against Sanz. They agreed to a sentence of two years’ probation and their criminal record could be erased if they successfully complete that term. The plea came minutes before jury selection was to begin.

The pair had faced up to 50 years each behind bars if convicted of the original charge of trying to extort money from Sanz, a Spanish singer who has won multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy awards. Sanz, whose real name is Alejandro Sanchez Pizarro, was not in court Monday.

Security was nevertheless extremely tight outside the courtroom, with cell phones collected from all spectators and reporters and an extra metal detector set up outside the door.

Circuit Judge Israel Reyes imposed a strict gag order on everyone connected to the case for the next two years, banning participants from talking publicly about the case. He ordered Gonzalez and Alzate to stay away from Sanz. Reyes also ordered Gonzalez released from jail.

Prosecutors said the couple threatened to release unspecified information about Sanz to His-



AP

In this Oct. 30, 2007 file photo, Spanish pop singer Alejandro Sanz performs during a concert in Panama City.

panic media unless they were paid \$500,000. Gonzalez had done maintenance work at Sanz’s home in Miami Beach, and he and his wife were allowed to live there.

A short time after the threat in December, Sanz issued a press release acknowledging that he has a 3-year-old son from a previously undisclosed relationship.

Sanz had objected to being forced to testify in the case but eventually gave a videotaped deposition, which remains sealed under Reyes’ order.

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SPEED RACER (PG)



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Synopsis

Hurting down the track, careening around, over and through the competition, Speed Racer is a natural behind the wheel. Born to race cars, Speed is aggressive, instinctive and, most of all, fearless. His only real competition is the memory of the brother he idolized—the legendary Rex Racer—whose death in a race has left behind a legacy that Speed is driven to fulfill. Speed is loyal to the family racing business, led by his father, Pops Racer, the designer of Speed’s thundering Mach 5.

Fri - Mon 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:45
Tues - Thurs 4:10 7:00

IRON MAN (PG-13)



2008 © Paramount Pictures

Synopsis

As CEO of Stark Industries, the U.S. Government’s top weapons contractor, billionaire industrialist and genius inventor Tony Stark has achieved celebrity status by protecting American interests around the globe for decades. Tony’s carefree lifestyle is forever changed when his convoy is attacked following a weapons test he oversees and he is held hostage by a group of insurgents.

Fri - Mon 1:00 4:00 7:25 9:55
Tues - Thurs 4:00 7:25

INDIANA JONES

& THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13)



2008 © Paramount Pictures

Synopsis

Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—Indiana and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy’s recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Fri - Mon 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:15

FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Tues - Thurs 4:30 7:20

MADE OF HONOR (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:15 4:25 7:05 9:30
Tues - Thurs 4:25 7:05

BABY MAMA (PG-13)

Fri - Mon 1:05 4:15 7:30 9:50
Tues - Thurs 4:15 7:30

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R)

Fri - Mon 1:25 4:05 7:10 9:40
Tues - Thurs 4:05 7:10

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Actress Katie Holmes headed to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Holmes is looking to bounce back from a box-office flop with her Broadway debut.

The “Dawson’s Creek” star and wife of Tom Cruise, who most recently starred in this year’s “Mad Money” alongside Diane Keaton and Queen Latifah, will hit the stage in a revival of Arthur Miller’s “All My Sons” this fall.

Fellow castmembers include John Lithgow, Dianne Wiest and Patrick Wilson. Exact dates and theater will be announced, producer Eric Falkenstein said Monday.

The play, first seen on Broadway in 1947, was Miller’s first Broadway hit. It concerns businessman Joe Keller (Lithgow) whose factory supplied defective cylinder parts to the military, resulting in the deaths of 21 pilots during World War II. Yet it was his business partner who went to jail for the mistake.

Wiest will play Keller’s wife; Wilson, his idealistic son; and Holmes, the son’s fiancée and daughter of Keller’s disgraced partner.

Holmes made a brief appearance on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” earlier this month when she welcomed Winfrey to the Telluride, Colo., home that she and Cruise share. She then left her husband to conduct a tour, which included a peek at daughter Suri’s playrooms, the home’s kitchen, Cruise’s collection of bound film scripts, and stunning views of snow-topped mountains.

Holmes costarred with Christian Bale in the 2005 blockbuster “Batman Begins,” but will not join Bale to reprise the role in this summer’s “The Dark Knight.”

Simon McBurney will direct “All My Sons,” which was revived on Broadway in 1987 and was last seen in New York 10 years later in a Roundabout Theatre Company production off-Broadway.

In this May 5, 2008 file photo, actress Katie Holmes arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute Gala, in New York.



Janet Jackson announces first new tour in 7 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Though going out on tour means connecting with fans, it can also mean long hours, high stress, and sleepless nights. Janet Jackson says she’s looking forward to all of it.

“I love all of that, all of that pressure, I really do,” Jackson told The Associated Press on Monday as she gears up for a North American tour to kick off in September.

The tour, which opens in Vancouver, British Columbia on September 10 and includes dates in New York and Washington, is Jackson’s first in seven years. But the singer, who just turned 42 last week, said she hadn’t planned on waiting for so long.

“I was supposed to go on tour with the last album,” said Jackson, referring to the 2006 CD “20 Y.O.” But the singer said her record label wanted her to wait for her latest CD, “Discipline.”

“We were actually in full-blown tour rehearsals at that point ... learning numbers, getting everything together,



In this April 10, 2008 file photo, Janet Jackson smiles as she watches dancers at a dance studio in Tokyo.

set designs,” she said. “I had to kind of shut everything down and go into the studio.”

Jackson’s shows have always been heavy on choreography and glitzy sets. But she promised fans some surprises this time around.

“It will definitely be a big production but it will definitely also be something that I’ve never done before, that people have never seen from me before,” she said.

While only a few dates have been announced for the Live Nation tour, Jackson expects to take the “Rock Witchu” tour (named, by the way, for a song on her new album, not for her brother Michael’s famous hit) worldwide.

“It’s been a while so I really want to make my rounds,” she said. “I haven’t been to ‘Australia in a very long time; I can’t wait to go there. There are a lot of places where I really want to stop off at, and that’s the idea, that’s the goal with this tour.”

Tickets go on sale June 7.

Kiefer Sutherland officially divorced

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stop the marriage clock: Kiefer Sutherland is officially divorced. A divorce judgment was filed Friday for the “24” actor and wife Elizabeth Kelly Winn,

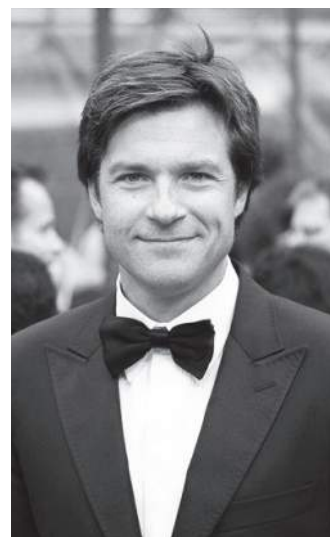
In this Sept. 24, 2007 file photo, actor Kiefer Sutherland arrives at the Fox Fall Eco-Casino party in Los Angeles.

according to court documents. Sutherland, 41, filed for divorce from his wife of nearly eight years in 2004, citing irreconcilable differences. The couple have no children together.

Last January, Sutherland was released from a Glendale jail after serving 48 days on a drunken driving charge. Sutherland pleaded no contest in October

to driving with a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit of 0.08 percent. He was sentenced to 30 days, as well as 18 days for violating probation stemming from a 2004 drunken-driving arrest.

Fox announced last week a two-hour “24” prequel to the upcoming seventh season will air Nov. 23.



now 39, before he starred in the critically acclaimed sitcom “Arrested Development.”

“I got down to a nine (golf) handicap,” said the actor, who appeared in the hit film “Juno” last year. “The day I became a single-digit, I called my agent and said, ‘You have to look harder. I shouldn’t be this good at golf.’”

In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, Jason Bateman arrives at the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.



Jason Bateman: I’m not a great son

NEW YORK (AP)—Child stars have it rough with their folks. Just ask Jason Bateman, who says his mom and dad are more like friends than parents.

“I’m not a great brother or uncle or son for that matter,” Bateman, who co-stars in the upcoming Will Smith movie “Hancock,” says in the cover story of the new issue of Best Life magazine. “I don’t have this obligatory ‘I have to call Mom once a week,’ because we’re just buddies.”

Bateman says he and sister, Justine supported the family with their paychecks from “Little House on the Prairie,” “Family Ties,” “Silver Spoons” and other shows. He fired his father as his manager when he was 20.

Since then, he’s had an off-and-on relationship with both his father and mother.

“I don’t think there are many people who would say that was a healthy situation,” Bateman said.

There were some slow years after child stardom for Bateman,

Girlfriend fears her love may fade with man’s thinning hair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am not sure how to handle my boyfriend’s hair loss. “Jasper” is 34 and I’m 23. We have been dating for two years and have a wonderful relationship. We are completely open to each other, and because of that, I feel backed into a corner regarding this subject.

Hair loss is such a tricky topic. Women aren’t supposed to care, but in reality we do—unless

you’re one of those rare women who enjoy bald heads. (I’m not one of them.) Although Jasper’s hair loss is barely noticeable now, without some sort of plan it will probably take over in a few years.

Jasper is self-conscious about his thinning hair. I can tell he’s worried, but he doesn’t want to do anything about it. I care more about Jasper’s feelings than his hair, so I haven’t let him know how much it bothers me, although he asks me often.

His type of hair loss is treatable. I find him very attractive now, but I don’t know how I will feel when he’s bald, and I’m sort of cringing inside about it. I feel like a daily ritual would not be too much to ask of someone.

I’m fed up with hearing, “If you love him, let him be” because my attraction to him is an important part of our lives. What should I do?

—TIRED OF SITTING ON MY HANDS

DEAR TIRED: Most women are not so fixated on “what’s on top” that they fail to value what’s underneath. While some hair loss is treatable with a “daily ritual,” some is not. The kind that isn’t can be successfully treated with a hair transplant—if the candidate is eligible, and if it is done by a talented, qualified surgeon.

Whether Jasper is willing to endure the discomfort or the inconvenience is anyone’s guess. In fact, he might prefer to find a woman who is less hung up on hair than you. Frankly, I’m betting he wouldn’t have to look too “fur.”

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please help me. I am a 24-year-old daughter who works with my father in a small company. We weren’t close until I reached college age. Since I have been working with him, we have grown much closer.

I love my parents dearly. However, Dad has an addictive personality. He has smoked, drunk and gambled in the past, but overcame these issues. Dad had an alcohol relapse a few years ago. Mama found him drunk. She hid it from my sister and me, but later told me in confidence. She said if he ever did it again, she might leave him.

Our business is having a rough time, and I found a stash of alcohol in Dad’s office. I know it can be no one else’s. I don’t want to ruin his marriage, nor do I want to lie by omission to Mama. Should I confront him, or let it play out and pretend I didn’t know?

I’d be devastated if they divorced. My sister is still in school. This is difficult since he’s my dad AND my boss. Any direction would be greatly appreciated.

—DAUGHTER WHO KNOWS TOO MUCH

DEAR DAUGHTER: Tell your father you found his stash and urge him to get back into his program immediately. Give him a deadline to do it AND to tell your mother. If he doesn’t, then you must. She has a right to know, and if you remain silent, you will only enable your father to continue drinking.

For your own emotional health, please do not allow yourself to be in the middle. I have mentioned Al-Anon so often I’m beginning to feel like an echo chamber. So allow me to mention another group that may be helpful. It’s Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, a 12-step program for individuals with whom I guarantee you’ll find much in common. Its Web site is www.adultchildren.org.

■ ■ ■

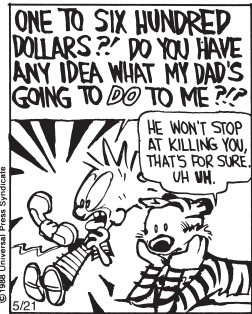
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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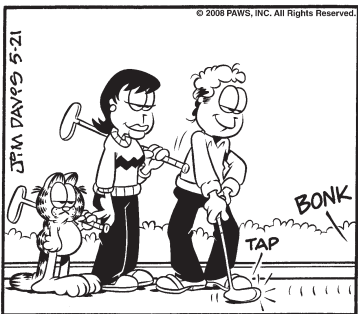
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Pastimes

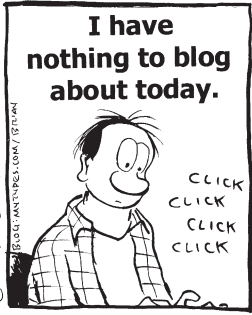
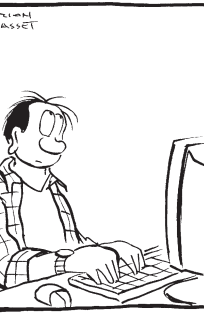
Calvin and Hobbes



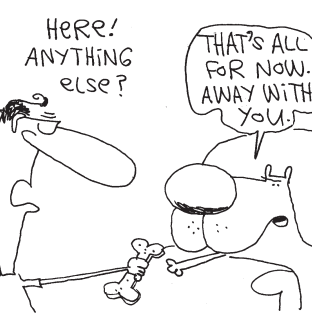
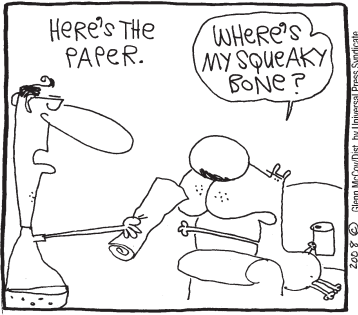
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 "Little Women" woman 39 Caribbean or Coral 41 Wings 43 East-of-the-Urals folks 46 Collision 50 Common queries, on a Web site 51 Review 54 Chills and fever 55 Fine, to NASA 56 Un-dressed 57 Oboist's sliver 58 Larry's pal 59 React in horror

DOWN 1 Elia's real name 2 Author Seton 3 Uncate-gorized (Abbr.) 4 John Jacob and kin 5 Without delay 6 Debtor's letters 7 Require-ment 8 Got up 9 Small shop 10 Otherwise 11 Groucho-like look 16 — jiffy

20 Daisy lead-in 22 Hint 23 In a way 25 Petrol 26 Invite 27 Bod 29 Carbon com-pound 31 Small salaman-der 32 Homer's interjec-tion 34 Cereal choice 38 Alaska explorer 40 Made comfort-able 42 Perform-ance 43 At a distance 44 Full of wisdom 45 Con game 47 Blue hue 48 Lather 49 Dickens' Uriah 52 Kanga's kid 53 Mamie's man

Solution time: 21 mins.

Y	U	L	E	P	A	H	S	L	E	D
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U	N	D	E	R	P	I	N	O	D	I
T	O	T	E	M	A	Y	L	A		
O	M	E	N		U	N	D	E	R	D
F	A	N		A	P	T	E	D	E	T
U	N	D	E	R	T	O	W		W	A
R	A	T	E	D	R	E	E	L		
E	P	I	C		U	N	D	E	R	B
I	S	N	T		S	A	G		U	R
N	E	T	S		T	H	Y		S	O

Yesterday's answer 5-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18							19	20		
			21		22	23		24		
25	26	27			28		29		30	31
32				34					35	
36				37				38		
		39	40			41		42		
43	44				45		46		47	48
49										
50					51	52	53			
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashlie Brillault, 21; Fairuza Balk, 34; Mr. T, 56; Judge Reinhold, 51

Happy Birthday: Spreading yourself too thin or not finishing what you start will work against you this year. Organization will be the key to your success, so delegate and coordinate masterfully. A pleasure trip should be built into your plans. Love and romance will be moving in a positive direction and must be allowed to develop into something special. Your numbers are 6, 17, 25, 34, 39, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Share your thoughts about past ideas with someone who complements your taste, and you will get the go-ahead to move forward. Remember, thoughts followed by actions can equal success if you are precise in your execution. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Adopt a pet, do something with someone you care for or get out and meet new people. All will raise your level of awareness and your quality of life. A trip or research that will bring about a change in your life will bring positive results. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Expect the unexpected from someone you know. Don't let things go, especially if it will cost you financially or emotionally. Consider your contribution to what has happened in the past and you'll know if you should move on or make amends. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put all your reserve into work, getting along with your peers and keeping things on track. It's the

avoidance of change that will be tough but necessary in order to win today. The people who care about you will support your position. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick to activities that make you feel good about yourself and your talents. Time off to reevaluate or just relax will do you a world of good and help you measure where you want to be. Your goals are within reach. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your emotions lead you into unfamiliar territory or make you do something you may regret later on. Watch how those around you handle the situation and you will stand a better chance at doing what's right and coming out on top. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expressing your ideas will excite someone who has something to contribute. Don't let your lazy side kick-in or someone will steal your ideas and profit instead of you. Be aggressive and you will make sizable gains. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let change or what others do set you off or hold you back. Don't waste time analyzing everything or you will lose out by giving others the competitive edge. Focus on your own ideas and trust in your own creativity. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may not see things too clearly, especially emotionally. So, before you make a fast decision or statement you may regret, do something that will take your mind off your worries and ease your stress. Focus on love and romance. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Concentrate on what you can do, not what you cannot. You may face a power play by someone you least expect. Act fast and you will counteract whatever he or she proposes. Know your limits. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A partnership will be advantageous whether professional or personal. Contributing to a common goal will be beneficial. The additional help will lead to a powerful team that will be difficult for anyone to beat. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't trust others with your secrets. Take a wait-and-see attitude if you want to stay on top. Change may be forced upon you but, if you are accepting and handle matters perceptively, you will prosper. **

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, original and an advocate of hard work. You are money-oriented and pursue whatever is profitable in all aspects of your life. You are playful and adaptable. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

5	6	4	1		2	9	7	8
1					9			
3					4			
6	2	3			8	7	5	
				6				4
				2				9
				9				5
				7				2
2	9	5			6	1	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/21 ©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	9	7	3	1	8	6	2
1	3	2	6	4	8	9	5	7
7	8	6	2	5	9	1	3	4
3	6	4	5	8	7	2	9	1
8	2	5	1	9	4	6	7	3
9	1	7	3	2	6	4	8	5
6	9	3	4	7	2	5	1	8
4	5	8	9	1	3	7	2	6
2	7	1	8	6	5	3	4	9

Difficulty Level ** 5/20

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STALAGMITES Solution: 9 letters

L	Y	L	C	A	V	E	S	T	I	S	O	P	E	D
E	E	E	G	N	I	D	N	A	T	S	H	U	G	E
V	A	N	L	R	I	H	E	I	G	H	T	A	G	M
L	R	N	G	E	I	A	P	N	S	N	E	N	®	S
O	S	U	E	T	V	S	I	R	O	S	I	①	S	E
V	S	T	O	A	H	W	E	I	M	N	®	D	E	T
E	T	R	L	W	O	Y	T	E	I	②	E	C	N	I
T	D	S	O	R	A	I	H	M	N	V	A	O	O	T
E	E	T	G	L	S	T	T	E	E	F	Y	L	I	C
R	T	N	Y	O	O	R	K	L	R	N	O	U	T	A
C	N	E	P	E	I	C	O	U	A	O	N	M	A	L
N	I	M	L	C	I	P	S	C	L	E	S	N	M	A
O	O	E	K	H	E	V	I	S	S	A	M	I	R	T
C	P	L	T	G	N	I	Y	F	I	D	I	L	O	S
S	E	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	P	M	E	T	F	N

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• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

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These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Spurs hold off Hornets to advance to West finals



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A title defense endures for the playoff-savvy San Antonio Spurs. Manu Ginobili scored 26 points, hitting four free throws in the final minute, sending the Spurs to the Western Conference finals with a 91-82 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Monday night in Game 7 of their second-round series.

Tony Parker added 17 points, including a crucial jumper in the final minute, as the Spurs held off a late rally to become the first team in this series to win on the road.

"We really believed we had a chance to win on the road here," said Spurs forward Tim Duncan, who had 16 points and 14 rebounds. "It's just a lot of confidence. A lot of games under our belt."

With a nucleus of Chris Paul, David West and Tyson Chandler, the Hornets appear destined for greater things, but now is not their time.

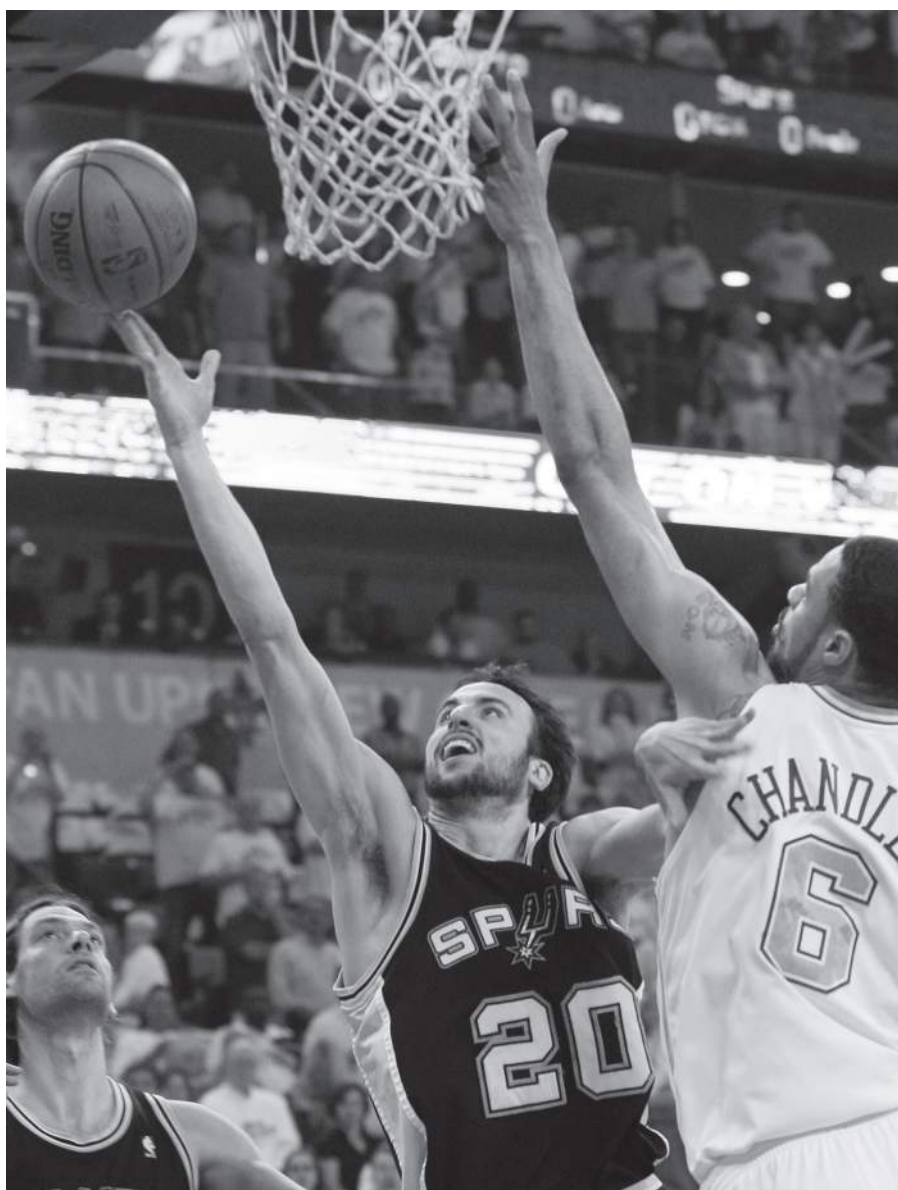
"One thing I want them to remember when they start working out next season is how they feel right now," said Hornets coach Byron Scott, adding he was proud of his team, which did not make the playoffs last season, for pushing the Spurs as far as it did.

"You have to go through some things before you can really understand how good it's going to feel when you get to that next level," Scott continued. "You don't go from not making playoffs to winning a championship. It just doesn't work that way. ... We're headed in right direction."

Now the Spurs and their championship ring-laden trio of Duncan, Ginobili and Parker will be traveling to Los Angeles to face the Lakers in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday night.

West led the Hornets with 20 points, while Paul and Jannero Pargo each added 18. Chandler had 13 points and 15 rebounds for the Hornets, who cut a deficit as large as 17 down to three inside the final two minutes.

While the Hornets managed to hold Duncan under 20 points by crowding the inside, his Spurs teammates com-



San Antonio Spurs forward Manu Ginobili (20), of Argentina, gets around New Orleans Hornets center Tyson Chandler (6) in the first half of Game 7 of the NBA Western Conference semifinal basketball series Monday, May 19, 2008, in New Orleans.

bined for 12 3-pointers to keep alive their chance to win back-to-back titles for the first time.

"We knew the shots were going to be there. It happened today that we just made more," said Ginobili, who made four 3-pointers. "We just let it fly."

The win also gave Spurs coach Gregg Popovich 100 playoff victories, moving him into a tie with Larry Brown for third on the career list.

The Hornets had dominated the third

quarters of their three previous home games in this series. This time, the Spurs, who have won four titles in the previous nine seasons, had an answer. It was their calling card: stingy defense.

The Hornets, down by nine to open the period, could not manage consecutive baskets throughout the quarter, never getting closer than seven.

New Orleans went nearly a three-minute stretch without a basket before Paul hit a pair of free throws to close

the gap to 58-50.

Michael Finley then responded with a 3-pointer and Parker added a jumper, putting San Antonio up 63-50.

New Orleans finally began to look overwhelmed by the magnitude of the moment, even missing open shots. Peja Stojakovic shot an airball on an open 3-point attempt. West missed an open 12-footer. The Hornets shot 5-of-17 for the quarter.

"What we did today was play better D in the third quarter," Popovich said. "We held them down and it really was about that for us."

New Orleans continued to play solid defense inside, holding Duncan in check and limiting San Antonio to 6-of-18 shooting in the quarter. But that didn't help much with the Spurs hitting clutch shots from outside.

Finley added another 3, as did Robert Horry, and Ginobili's free throws gave San Antonio a 71-54 lead late in the period.

Buoyed by a home crowd that stood throughout the fourth quarter, the Hornets fought back to make a game of it, largely behind Pargo, who had done little in this series. He scored seven straight on four free throws sandwiched around a 3-pointer, pulling the Hornets to 81-77 with 3:10 to go.

Pargo made another 3 to cut it to 83-80 with about 1 1/2 minutes to go, then attempted another for the tie with a minute left, but it rattled out.

Parker drained a jumper on the other end with 50 seconds left to make it 85-80, and New Orleans could not recover.

After a tight first quarter, the Spurs opened the second period with a 12-5 run, capped by Parker's driving layup as he was fouled, giving San Antonio a 36-25 lead.

Paul's driving floater off the glass turned the tide, sparking a 12-0 run that included 3s by Stojakovic and Morris

NBA BRIEFS

Ex-NBA ref Donaghy deserves probation, lawyers say

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for disgraced basketball referee Tim Donaghy (DAH-N'-uh-gee) say their client deserves to be sentenced to probation because he cooperated in the probe into NBA betting and because he has "a pathological gambling condition." The lawyers say in a Brooklyn federal court filing Monday that Donaghy "provided crucial facts to government investigators" probing the NBA betting scheme. They say the information "will lead to future reforms" of the NBA. NBA executive Joel Litvin calls the filing a "desperate act of a convicted felon who is hoping to avoid prison time." The veteran referee pleaded guilty last year to felony charges for taking cash payoffs from gamblers and betting on games he officiated. He is scheduled to be sentenced May 22.

Utah forward Millsap tore thumb ligament

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah Jazz forward Paul Millsap will have surgery Thursday to repair his left thumb, which was injured during the Western Conference semifinals. General manager Kevin O'Connor says Millsap has a torn ligament. His recovery time won't be known until Friday. Millsap's injury occurred last Friday when the Los Angeles Lakers eliminated the Jazz. He scored 15 points.

Peterson. Stojakovic's baseline jumper briefly put New Orleans ahead 37-36, but Ginobili came back with a 3, Parker a driving layup and Duncan a short fade to put San Antonio right back in front.

Ginobili then hit two more 3s on consecutive possessions, restoring the Spurs' double-digit lead at 49-38 with under a minute to go in the half.

At that point, the Spurs were 8-of-15 on 3s, with Ginobili hitting four. The Hornets, by contrast, looked tight at times, missing five of nine free throws, with Paul missing three.

After Ginobili and Paul exchanged driving floaters in the final seconds of the half, the Spurs led 51-42.

Bengals release troubled linebacker Thurman



CINCINNATI (AP)—Less than a month after the NFL reinstated Odell Thurman from his two-year suspension, the troubled linebacker is out of a job.

The Cincinnati Bengals staunchly supported Thurman during his suspension for violating the league's substance abuse and conduct policies. When he didn't show up for voluntary workouts that represented a chance to catch up, they decided they've had enough.

Thurman was waived on Monday, leaving his once-promising career at the crossroads again.

"Everything was fine two weeks ago," agent Safarrah Lawson said in a phone interview shortly after Thurman was released. "He left for a week to deal with the death of his grandmother, and he didn't make it back."

Now, his road back to the NFL will have to go through some other team.

Thurman failed to attend the team's three voluntary on-field workouts last week, when he was in Georgia following the death of his grandmother. The Bengals are installing a new defense, and wanted him to practice.

"I was just told by coach (Marvin) Lewis that he hadn't been in the building enough since his reinstatement, and they decided to go in a differ-

ent direction," Lawson said.

In the past two months, the Bengals have finally cut ties with their most-punished players.

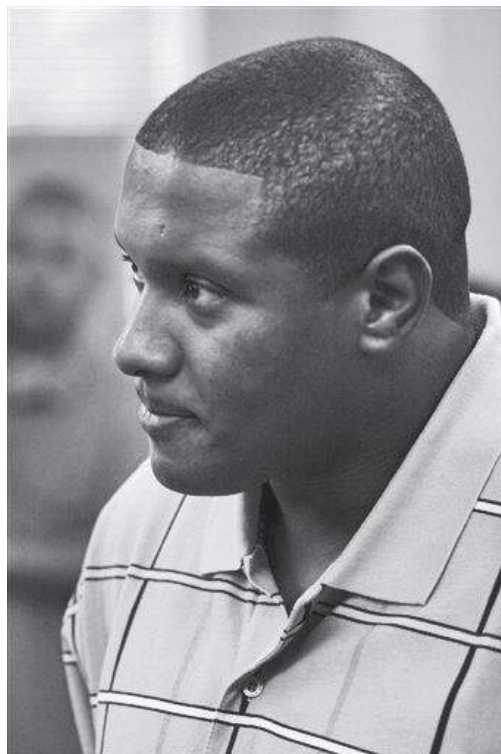
Receiver Chris Henry was released on April 3 after he was arrested for the fifth time. Henry had already served multiple suspensions from the NFL, including missing the first eight games of last season.

Now, one of his best friends is gone from the team, too.

Thurman, a second-round draft pick from Georgia, showed promise as a rookie in 2005, when he led the team in tackles and led all NFL rookies with five interceptions. He was suspended for the first four games of the 2006 season after failing to show up for a drug test.

Commissioner Roger Goodell extended the suspension to a full season when Thurman was arrested for drunken driving; Henry was a passenger in the vehicle, but wasn't charged. Goodell later extended Thurman's suspension through the 2007 season as well, setting conditions for his return.

Thurman met them and was on his way to full reinstatement when Goodell allowed him to start working out at Paul Brown Stadium in January. He was fully reinstated on April 21, and had been working out.



In this Aug. 21, 2007 file photo, Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Odell Thurman is shown in court in Cincinnati.

The Bengals finally gave up on him when he went back to Georgia for the funeral of his grandmother, who raised him, and didn't return for the voluntary workouts. Lawson said Thurman stayed in Georgia to take care of matters related to his grandmother.

The Bengals are installing a new defense under coordinator Mike Zimmer. They drafted Southern California linebacker Keith Rivers in the first round, and were looking at ways to shuffle their linebackers.

"The NFL provided Odell the opportunity to earn his way back onto our team, but we have not seen the right steps taken by him," Lewis said in a statement. "With our offseason work in progress and new talent added at our linebacker position, we've determined it's best to keep moving in a direction that does not include Odell."

Lewis declined to be interviewed.

While it's a long shot for Henry to sign with another team—his latest arrest could bring a full-season suspension if he gets back into the league—someone might give Thurman another chance at a minimum salary.

Lawson was surprised that the Bengals let him go.

"Odell traveled a long, hard road to get back, to get reinstated," Lawson said. "It's unfortunate that, ultimately, the death of his grandmother sidetracked him and made football not the No. 1 priority over the last month."

Cancer survivor Lester throws no-hitter vs Royals



BOSTON
(A P) —
Jon Lester

has survived cancer and pitched a World Series clincher for the Boston Red Sox. Now he can add a no-hitter to his already amazing list of accomplishments.

The 24-year-old lefty shut down Kansas City 7-0 Monday night for the first no-hitter in the majors since Red Sox rookie Clay Buchholz threw one last September. It was Lester's first major league complete game. And what a way to do it.

"You don't feel tired in that situation. You've got so much adrenaline going," he said. "I'm sure it will hit me in the morning."

Lester (3-2) allowed just two baserunners, walking Billy Butler in the second inning and Esteban German to open the ninth; he also had an error when he threw away a pickoff attempt.

Lester struck out nine, fanning Alberto Callaspo to end the game before pumping both fists in the air.

Catcher Jason Varitek, who has been behind the plate for a record four no-hitters, lifted his pitcher into the air. Manager Terry Francona gave a long, hard embrace to Lester, who missed the end of the 2006 season after he was diagnosed with a rare form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"I've been through a lot the last couple of years. He's been like a second dad to me," Lester said. "It was just a special moment right there."

Center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury made a diving catch of Jose Guillen's line drive to end the fourth—the best defensive play of the night. Lester also got help from first baseman Kevin Youkilis, who made a nice scoop on shortstop Julio Lugo's throw after David DeJesus hit a grounder in the third.

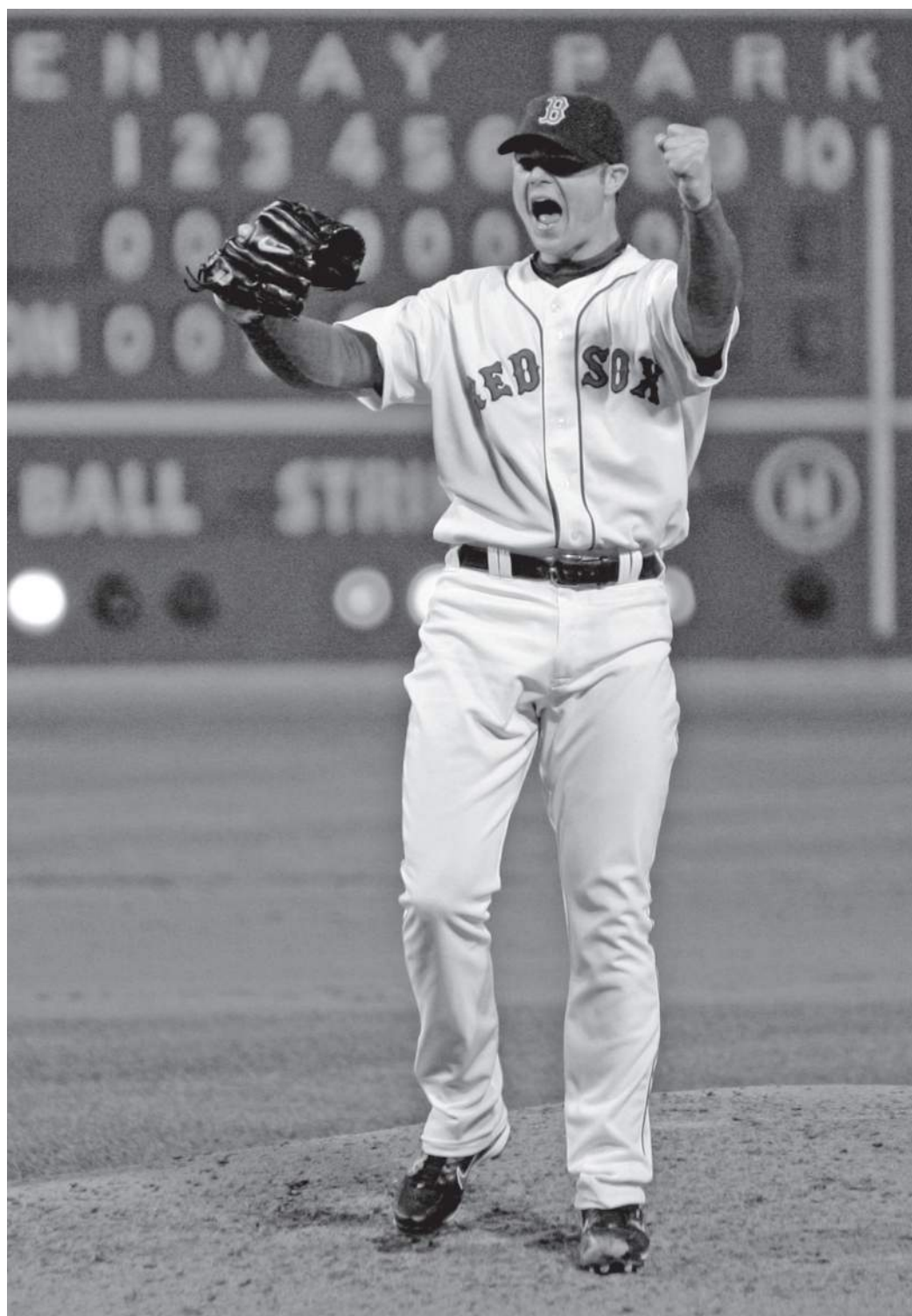
The fans at sold-out Fenway Park held their enthusiasm until the final out of the seventh, rising to their feet when Lester fanned Guillen on a 93 mph fastball. They remained standing for the entire ninth inning, even as German walked and moved around to third base when Tony Pena and DeJesus grounded out.

With cameras flashing and the fans screaming at full throat, Callaspo fell behind 0-2. He took a ball and fouled one off before reaching for a high and outside 1-2 fastball to end the game.

"I was trying to do what I could do," Callaspo said. "You had to ... try to get the bat on the ball."

Lester and Varitek were mobbed by teammates running out of the dugout as the speakers played "Tessie," the victory anthem the Red Sox adopted through two World Series titles in four seasons. Lester was instrumental in the second, less than a year after chemotherapy cured his cancer, when he earned the victory in Game 4 at Colorado to complete the Red Sox sweep.

"I can't tell you which one



Boston Red Sox starter Jon Lester pumps his arms after throwing a no-hitter against the Kansas City Royals during their MLB baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Monday, May 19, 2008.

means more to me than the other," Lester said. "The World Series is, obviously, the World Series. How many people get to say they've won that? And a no-hitter is a no-hitter. How many people can say they've done that?"

"So they're both up there. They both mean a heck of a lot to me, and something I'll cherish for a long time."

Lester and Jonathan Papelbon combined to one-hit the Royals on July 18, 2006.

Buchholz no-hit the Baltimore Orioles last Sept. 1 in just his second major league start.

Mel Parnell was the last Red Sox lefty to throw a no-hitter, beating the Chicago White Sox on July 14, 1956. Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is the only other person in history to no-hit the Royals.

"We're on the wrong part of history," Kansas City manager Trey Hillman said.

Varitek also caught Buchholz's no-hitter, along with gems by Hideo Nomo and Derek Lowe.

"It's so exciting to be part of one. Each one is so different," said Varitek, who handed Lester the ball from the final pitch but didn't have much to say. "Just let him enjoy the moment."

"It was his moment."

Lester, who was the prime prospect in offseason trade talks to bring Johan Santana to Boston, hugged Francona and then tipped his hat to the fans for one more big cheer.

"He's a wonderful kid, not because he threw a no-hitter. He's a good kid because he's a good kid," Francona said. "We're proud of him all the time but to watch him do that tonight was beyond words. I tried to put it into words but it's hard because—what a story."

Luke Hochevar (3-3) allowed seven runs on five hits and six walks in six innings for Kansas City, which had won six of its last seven.

The Red Sox took advantage of Hochevar with five runs in the third, scoring their first run on a double play and then loading the bases on walks after Ellsbury tripled. Manny Ramirez walked to bring in another run and then Mike Lowell hit a high popup that was dropped by second baseman Mike Grudzielanek for another two runs.

Youkilis bounced a line drive over the short wall in right to make it 5-0. Varitek added a two-run homer in the sixth.

Longoria hit a two-run homer in the 13th inning and Tampa Bay overcame a pair of home runs by Oakland's Frank Thomas.

Eric Hinske also hit a two-run homer and Jason Hammel (3-2) pitched three scoreless innings for the win in his first appearance since May 7 to help the Rays win for the ninth time in 12 games.

The A's have lost eight of 10 after blowing an early 3-0 lead.

Cubs 7, Astros 2

At Houston, Geovany Soto didn't get the automatic home run he deserved, but it didn't make a difference as the Chicago Cubs beat the Houston Astros.

Soto was credited with an inside-the-park homer in the fourth inning despite replays showing that it should have been an automatic home run. The ball bounced just to the right of the yellow line on the wall in left-center field. Astros center fielder Michael Bourn scooped it up and threw it home, but Soto scored easily before the throw got there.

It was the second straight night that major league umpires botched a home run call. New York Mets first baseman Carlos Delgado was robbed of a three-run homer Sunday night. Delgado's ball was originally ruled a home run but the call was reversed, turning it into a long foul ball. The replay of that play showed it should have been a home run.

Ted Lilly (5-4) allowed four hits and two runs with six strikeouts in 5 1-3 innings for his fourth straight win.

Nationals 4, Phillies 0

At Washington, Ryan Zimmerman saved a run or two with a quick stab to stop a double down the left-field line in the first inning, charged a two-hopper barehanded to throw out the swift Shane Victorino in the fifth, then made a tough catch look routine when pinch hitter Greg Dobbs hit a foul pop-up in the seventh.

With the help of his third baseman's flawless defense, Tim Lincecum (6-3) threw 6 1-3 scoreless innings and Washington opened a seven-game homestand with a win over Philadelphia.

Rockies 4, Giants 3

At Denver, Clint Barmes homered and Yorvit Torrealba added a go-ahead two-run double in the sixth as Colorado dealt San Francisco a season-high sixth straight loss.

Jason Grilli (1-0) got two outs in the sixth to earn his first win as a member of the Rockies. Brian Fuentes pitched around an opening single in the ninth for his sixth save in eight chances.

Fred Lewis had two triples for San Francisco and Randy Winn hit a solo homer in the first to extend his hitting streak to 14 games. He also had a single and an RBI on a sacrifice fly.

Cardinals 8, Padres 2

At San Diego, Albert Pujols hit two mighty home runs, and Cesar Izturis and Ryan Ludwick also went yard in leading the Cardinals over the punchless Padres.

It was the third straight win for the Cardinals, who got to face Wil Lincecum (0-1) instead of Padres ace Jake Peavy, who could be heading for the disabled list due to soreness in his pitching elbow. The four homers were the most in a game this year for the Cardinals, who tied their season high with 16 hits.

Dodgers 6, Reds 5

At Los Angeles, rookie Blake DeWitt's bases-loaded RBI single with one out in the ninth inning helped Los Angeles end Cincinnati's six-game winning streak.

Russell Martin led off the ninth against David Weathers (1-3) with an infield single up the middle and continued to second when shortstop Paul Janish threw the ball over the head of first baseman Joey Votto and into the dugout.

Martin advanced on Jeff Kent's groundout, and Weathers intentionally walked James Loney and Matt Kemp before DeWitt stroked an opposite-field hit to left. He is 6-for-6 with 12 RBIs in bases-loaded situations.

Tiger Woods plans to play Buick Open, host clinic



GRAND BLANC, Mich.

(AP)—Tiger Woods intends to play in the Buick Open and will host a golf clinic at Comerica Park in Detroit on June 24, two days before the tournament begins. Buick golf marketing manager Larry Peck announced Woods' participation during a news conference Monday.

Woods hasn't played since undergoing knee surgery two days after the Masters, and isn't expected to return until the U.S. Open in mid-June. The Buick Open, a tournament Woods has played eight times and won twice, comes two weeks later.

Woods doesn't usually commit to tournaments until the last minute, but his plans are concrete enough that the tournament announced he will host a clinic.

"Tiger is very excited about this clinic, because it will be the first one he has held at a baseball stadium," Peck said.

Woods skipped the Buick Open last season after the birth of his daughter.

MANILA, Philippines—Alaska coach Tim Cone may not exactly want the tag for his team, but the Aces sure are turning out to be giant killers.

With Willie Miller showing his MVP form and the Aces’ other locals chipping in their ample share, they convincingly beat erstwhile solo leader Red Bull 101-90 Sunday in the Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Miller scattered 24 points while adding seven rebounds and six assists to spearhead the Aces’ follow-up to their 99-91 win over Coca-Cola last Wednesday and jack their win-loss record to 4-6. The Tigers shared the lead prior to that loss.

“We’re playing closer to what we envisioned this team to be at the start of the conference,” said

Alaska gets back at Red Bull

Cone. “We wanted this team to play a certain way to be successful and it was kinda shocking it didn’t turn out that way. Hopefully everybody (in the team) is getting it now,” he added.

The latest fruits of their labors gave them their first back-to-back wins in the conference and improved the Aces’ win-loss record to 4-6, though still not enough to put them on the upper half of the standings.

Still, it is quite pleasing enough, at least for Cone.

“We’re still 4-6 and that record is still very negative,” Cone said. “But I’d rather we be 4-6 that have won two games than be 4-6 and have lost three.”

With Jeffrey Cariaso and Sonny Thoss contributing their ample share, the Aces even withstood an atrocious free throw shooting night for import Randy Holcomb.

Holcomb, who was shooting 60 percent from the 15-foot line prior to the game, finished with 21 points and 15 rebounds, but went 1-of-11 from the stripe, including 0-of-6 in the fourth quarter that gave the Barakos hope.

“He’s a career 70 or 80 percent free throw shooter, but he got into such a bad funk tonight,” noted Cone.

Good thing Alaska’s game

hardly was affected, thanks mainly to Miller, whose six points capped by a rare four-point play highlighted an 8-1 surge by the Aces that plucked them out of an 87-81 count.

Red Bull absorbed its third loss in 10 games, dropping it into a tie for the lead with idle Talk ‘N Text.

Adam Parada led the Barakos with game-highs of 27 points and 23 rebounds—his third 20-20 game in the conference, but his game visibly went into a slide after he scored 15 points right in the first quarter.

Cone said the 6-foot-7 Thoss did such a fine job wear-

ing down Parada, especially in the third period, that there was never any need to bring Holcomb back on the Mexican-American 7-footer.

Thoss wound up with 12 points and 13 rebounds, nine of them off the offensive boards. His putback gave Alaska the first of its two 18-point leads at 67-49, 4:45 left in the third quarter.

Cariaso scattered nine of his 11 points in the decisive fourth period, highlighted by a triple that gave an unassailable 99-87 spread going into the last 1:46 of play.

Red Bull beat Alaska 100-97 in overtime the first time they

met April 19 in Laoag City, but things turned out differently when the Aces went on a balanced 15-3 tear spanning the first two quarters to fully erase a 20-23 deficit.

John Ferriols had five points and Holcomb and Miller three each in that surge that gave Alaska a 35-26 spread it padded to 46-35 at the half.

Alaska 101 – Miller 24, Holcomb 21, Thoss 12, Dela Cruz 11, Cariaso 11, Tenorio 8, Ferriols 7, Hugnatan 3, Fonacier 2, Laure 2.

Red Bull 90 – Parada 27, Baguio 17, Pennisi 13, Cruz 8, Alvarez 7, Najorda 6, Duncil 5, Robinson 4, Hrabak 3, Ybanez 0, Sharma 0, Adriano 0.

Quarterscores: 27-23, 46-35, 74-62, 101-90. (www.pba.com.ph)

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

Mizer struck out Saralu then walked Jesus Celes, who was later caught on a 4-6 putout play for the second out.

Hustlers catcher Khobby Kai-pat reached base on an error and stole second base but was left stranded when Mizer forced Henry Lizama to an infield fly that was caught by shortstop Jeremy Rabauliman to end the inning.

In the bottom of the fourth, Mizer struck out Cody Kaipat then gave up a single to Josh Lucero. Mizer ended the Hustlers run scoring threat when he retired Joseph Borja and A.J. Lizama, who both struck out swinging to end the game.

Jared Sablan started for the Pa-

triots lasting 2.1 innings allowing one unearned run on one hit fanning two but walked four batters. He allowed a single to Saralu in the bottom of the first with two outs then gave up a lead off walk to Kelvin Deleon Guerrero, who scored Hustlers’ lone run when he reached home plate on a Rabauliman error.

Catcher Jun Rabauliman only went 1-for-3 but belted a three-run homer in the top of the second that highlighted the Patriots’ five-run rally. He was hit by pitch in the first and grounded on a 4-3 putout play in the fourth.

Mizer went 2-for-3 with two runs and a double while Brett Halstead had a lead off triple in the third. Alan Aguon connected with a two-RBI double in the first.

Hustlers’ manager Tony Celis

was reserving ace pitchers Saralu and Lizama for the playoffs, which begins today at the “Tan Ge” and San Vicente fields. Hustlers will be taking on the Martha’s Store Survivors, while the Patriots battle the dangerous AA Ent./TCC World Braves of Tanapag.

Suns 8, Twins 7

On Sunday, Jenece Salas drove in two runs while Keith Concepcion pitched five innings in relief to help the Shell Marianas Suns squeeze out an 8-7 win over the Wells Fargo As Matuis Twins.

Salas scored one run going 1-for-3 connecting with a one-out two-RBI triple in the third. Concepcion gave up two earned runs on three hits striking out seven batters while walking four.

and Vivian Lee.

In the women’s doubles, Thea Minor and Cleofe Santos squeezed out a 6-7, 6-0, 6-3 win over Theecel Minor and Tisha Fernandez, while Gary Ramsey and Nanding Cajigan outlasted Richard Brostrom and Fr. Ryan Jimenez, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 in the men’s 4.0 doubles.

Dino Jones teamed up with Roy Pangelinan to claim the men’s 40-and-over doubles crown where they scored a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Gabriel

Pirates 8, A’s 6

Frankie Camacho continued with his late-season exploits on the mound pitching 2.1 innings of no-hit ball to help the Kautz Glass Pirates eke out an 8-6 win over the Tan Holdings Athletics A’s

Camacho slammed the door shut for the A’s striking out five batters with no walks. He also hammered a solo shot in the fourth inning going 2-for-3 with two runs and one RBI.

Jonah Flores only went 1-for-2 but also homered for the Pirates, a second-inning grand slam that highlighted the Kautz Glass-backed team’s seven-run rally.

Ol’Aces 11, Dolphins

Davie Matagolai drove in two runs in the Happy Market Ol’Aces’ 11-3 demolition of the PTI Dolphins.

Colombo and Kentaro Imay.

Dong Ik Jang and Joseph Jang defeated Steve Nutting and Andy Nutting, 7-5, 6-3, in the men’s 3.0 doubles, while Yuri Hatamata and Imay downed MayLing Colombo and Gabriel Colombo in the mixed 3.0/2.0 doubles.

Action continues this weekend for the junior doubles and adult singles events at the PIC courts where Heo will be defending his men’s open crown.

First Game

OPA 102 – P. Rasa 27, Diaz 24, S. Rasa 17, Wesley 12, Kapileo 8, Coldeen 6, Camacho 4, Aaron 2, Garon 2.

Tinian 87 – San Nicolas 24, Borja 23, Santos 21, Aquinino 10, Reyes 7, Manglona 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-22, 43-30, 69-63, 102-87.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Dado Vistal.

Second Game

NMC-Proa 105 – Chariton 32, Wallace 26, Tumaquip 22, Ruloked 12, Diaz 5, Villacrusis 5.

DCCA 95 – Camacho 51, Iginoef 19, Rangamar 14, Rogolifoi 11.

Scoring by quarters: 28-15, 51-36, 75-54, 105-95.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Gilbert Espinosa.

DFS

From Page 28

to the limit by ninth seed Evzen Pabellon in the semifinals.

Cajigan cruised to an early 3-0 lead but Pabellon did not give up and grabbed the advantage at 4-3. The score was tied at 5-5 entering the 11th game when Cajigan’s experience prevailed, as he won the last two games to win the 90-minute contest.

Tammy Ackerman bested

Emily Jones, 6-2, in their head-to-head match up in the girls’ 9-and-under singles.

In the adult division, Race and Loyola hoisted the men’s open doubles trophy after a 6-3, 6-3 demolition of Heo and Nicolas Son. Race then added the mixed doubles open crown when he teamed up with Arriola in scoring a 6-2, 6-2 decision against Loyola and Lydia Tan.

Loyola and Tan were coming off a hard-earned 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 semifinal win over Peter Loken

OPA

From Page 28

Defending champion OPA trounced an undermanned Tinian side, 102-87, while Proa used a strong first quarter in coasting to a 105-95 win over perennial contenders Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Ponce Rasa scored 27 points to lead three other OPA players that scored in double figures. He scored 10 in the final period to help OPA foil Tinian’s repeated come back tries.

Former CNMI Men’s National Team member Ed Diaz backed him up with 24 points, while Steve Rasa added 17 more. Tim Wesley had a quiet 12 markers.

Fritz San Nicolas led Tinian’s losing cause ending up with 24 points. Tinian only played with seven players against OPA’s 10-man rotation.

Anthony Borja and John Santos chipped in 23 and 21 each, while Julian Aquiningoc contributed 10 markers.

In the second game, Keoni Chariton ran rings around the DCCA defense to lead last year’s runner-up Proa to a 105-95 win.

Chariton scored 32 points, 14 of which came in the third quarter as the NMC crew of coach Rufino Aguon enjoyed a 75-54 lead going into the pay-off period.

DCCA twice trimmed the lead to nine points, the last at 82-91 with four minutes and 15 seconds left in the game,

Matagolai went 1-for-3 and scored one run, while Jeremy Lizama went 2-for-3 with one run, a triple, and an RBI.

Lancaster Secharmidal pitched 4.1 innings in start giving up two unearned runs on five hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Red Sox 7, McDonald's 0

Tommy Reyes pitched six

shutout innings as the Bank of Saipan Red Sox blanked McDonald’s, 7-0.

Reyes yielded three hits striking out seven batters and walking one. He held McDonald’s to 3-for-21 in batting or a .143 average.

Jerome Reyes went 3-for-3 scoring twice with an RBI while Craig Aguon, who struck out in his first at bat, went 1-for-2 with a two-RBI single in the third.

She beat Rachel Bandelin (46:17) and Grace Kimbal (46:54) in the race to Saipan.

A total of 40 swimmers participated in last year’s Escape From Managaha including cancer survivor Mary Ann Stewart, who made the channel crossing after a mere eight months after undergoing a mastectomy.

For more information or to pick up entry forms, email Stewart at wfla@hotmail.com or call 287-9474.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	19	.596	—
Tampa Bay	26	19	.578	1
Baltimore	23	20	.535	3
Toronto	23	23	.500	4 1/2
New York	20	24	.455	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	23	20	.535	—
Cleveland	22	22	.500	1 1/2
Minnesota	22	22	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	21	23	.477	2 1/2
Detroit	17	27	.386	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	26	20	.565	—
Oakland	24	22	.522	2
Texas	22	24	.478	4
Seattle	18	27	.400	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	24	19	.558	—
New York	22	19	.537	1
Philadelphia	24	22	.522	1 1/2
Atlanta	22	21	.512	2
Washington	20	26	.435	5 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	28	17	.622	—
St. Louis	27	20	.574	2
Houston	25	21	.543	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	21	23	.477	6 1/2
Cincinnati	21	24	.467	7
Milwaukee	20	24	.455	7 1/2

West Division

Arizona	28	16	.636	—
Los Angeles	23	21	.523	5
Colorado	18	27	.400	10 1/2
San Francisco	17	29	.370	12
San Diego	16	30	.348	13

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 7, Houston 2
Washington 4, Philadelphia 0
Colorado 4, San Francisco 3
St. Louis 8, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, Cincinnati 5
Boston 7, Kansas City 0
Minnesota 7, Texas 6, 12 innings
Tampa Bay 7, Oakland 6, 13 innings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings
Majors

Patriots	15	1
Hustlers I	15	1
Ol'Aces	12	3
Red Sox	12	3
Braves	11	4
Survivors	10	5
Dragons	9	6
Pirates	7	8
Dolphins	6	9
Twins	6	9
Little Lions	5	10
Athletics A's	4	11
McDonald's	3	12
Hustlers II	2	13
Suns	2	13
Dare JPO's	1	14

A night of fun and farewell



Some of the winners in the recently concluded Michelob-Ultra Badminton Tournament pose for a group photo.



Men's B champions Alvin Alvarez, left, and Joseph Santos, third left, pose with NMBF officials.



Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament coordinator Macoi Aguda, left, joins women's B runners-up Emily Vargas and Marlene Peraja along with former Northern Marianas Badminton Federation president Jonathan Perez and board member Lito Mendoza during Saturday's awards presentation at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Men's B third placers Ariel Mariano, second left, and Sherwin Samson, third left, show off their certificates.



Mixed doubles runners up Geary Balarao, second left, poses for photographers after receiving his certificate. Balarao teamed up with Lot Abuel, whose certificate was received by sister Lani Bartolome, third left.



Men's A singles champion Priyanthan Wijayaguharatne, second left, smiles after receiving his certificate from NMBF officials.



Men's B runners-up Roger Vales, second left, and Saul Gargallo, third left, join NMBF officials for a group photo.



Event host Hapi Gabriel, left, shares a light moment with mixed doubles third place finishers Gary Bandoja, second left, and Lucelle Lampera, third left.



Roger Vales, second left, takes a look at his certificate after receiving it from NMBF officials. Vales teamed up with Malou Malasarte, third left, to emerge as champions in the mixed doubles event.



NMBF members, from left, Lucelle Lampera, Sherwin Samson, Robert Reyes, and Irene Santiago.

Contributed Photos



The Northern Marianas Badminton Federation honored the winners of the recently concluded Inaugural Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament in a simple ceremony held at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

It was a night of fun and endless merriment as the usual humor brought by event hosts Hapi Gabriel, Marconi Calindas, and Macoi Aguda brought barrels of laughter from the more than 70 NMBF members that packed the Chambre Bar as they made fun of each other and the unwilling victims that they see during the night.

Winners of the inaugural Michelob Ultra badminton meet were awarded certificates for their feat.

Leading the list of winners is Priyanthan Wijayaguharatne, who won the men's A singles and teamed up with John Nguyen to claim the men's A doubles crown.

Joseph Santos and Alvin Alvarez topped the men's B with Roger Vales and Saul Gargallo ending up in second place. Ariel Mariano and Sherwin Samson placed third. Efren Caddac and Paul Navarro claimed the men's C title.

Lourdes Cielo partnered with Loyda Ito to rule the women's B doubles division, while Ana Rose Omori paired up with Angie Ito in the women's C class in the month-long tournament sponsored, in part, by Michelob-MAR-PAC, At Your Service, SaipanCell, JET Holdings, PMIC, Serenity Salon, Elegance Café, NIC, Canton Restaurant, National Office Supply, Makeover Beauty Salon, Megavision, Venus Beauty Salon, Vargas Construction, Esolutions Inc., Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, N.C. Matsumoto, PFC International, Traders Insurance, and Tropex Garden.

Emily Vargas and Marlene Peraja finished second in the women's B, while Merlie Savellano and Camille Samonte placed third.

Vales, meanwhile, teamed up with Malou Malasarte to earn the mixed doubles while Geary Balarao and Lot Abuel placed second. Gary Bandoja and Lucelle Lampera finished third.

It was also a night of farewells as the NMBF said goodbye to its founding president, Jonathan Perez, who will be going back to work in the Philippines.

Incumbent NMBF president Marconi Calindas and secretary Hapi Gabriel made a video and photomontage of how the NMBF started, highlighting Perez's contributions in helping promote the sport.

NMBF officials and members then alternated in giving their messages and wishing Perez the best of luck on his return home. **(NMBF)**



A night of fun and farewell

The Northern Marianas Badminton Federation honored the winners of the recently concluded Inaugural Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament in a simple ceremony held at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Spurs hold off Hornets to advance to West finals

A title defense endures for the playoff-savvy San Antonio Spurs. Manu Ginobili scored 26 points, hitting four free throws in the final minute, sending the Spurs to the Western Conference finals with a 91-82 victory over the Hornets.

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28 WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Patriots bag Little League pennant

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Defending champion SaipanCell Patriots claimed its third straight Majors division pennant after scoring an 11-1 win over the UMDA Hustlers in their tiebreaker match yesterday in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Both teams ended up with similar 15-1 slates. The Patriots' lone loss was against OI' Aces, while they handed 2005 champion Hustlers their only setback. The Patriots are also aiming to win their third straight title.

Chris Mizer imposed his 5-foot-9 frame on the mound pitching 1.2 innings in relief giving up no runs on one-hit ball, striking out four while walking one. He came in when Raymund Saralu was up to bat in the bottom of the third.

See PATRIOTS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Chris Mizer of the defending champion SaipanCell Patriots, left, runs toward home plate while Hustlers catcher Khobby Kaipat waits for the relay throw in their pennant game yesterday in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

OPA, Proa debut strong in govt league



JON PEREZ

DCCA's Joey Dela Cruz, left, tries to stop Keoni Chariton of NMC-Proa from scoring in their game in Monday night's opening of the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Last year's finalists Office of the Public Auditor and Northern Marianas College-Proa scored lopsided wins over separate opponents to begin their respective campaigns in the 2008 season of the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

See OPA on Page 26

DFS crowns Jr. singles, adult doubles champs

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Champions in various divisions in the 27th Annual Duty Free Shop-Micronesian Tennis Tournament were crowned in Sunday's finals held at the Pacific Islands Club courts

lands Club courts

Leading the list of winners is boys' 18-and-under singles champion James Camacho and the veteran tandem of Jeff Race and Peter Loyola in the men's open doubles event.

Camacho, the CN-MI's fourth-ranked Under-18 netter, bested a tough field that included Junior top seed Russell Buenaventura, Woo Suk Chang, Joseph Jang, Andy Nutting, and Calvin Yang to win this year's age division that was dominated in the past by Ji Hoon Heo.

Camacho scored a clinical 6-0, 6-1 decision against the fifth-ranked Chang.

Girls' 18-and-under top seed Mayuko Arriola earned her last division crown after a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over

fifth-ranked Thea Minor.

Rafael Jones and Ilia Corella won the boys' and girls' 13-and-under titles after beating separate opponents. Jones scored a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Jake Lee while Corella pulled off a 6-3, 6-4 decision against Amy Arenovski.

Jones scored a semifinal upset beating good friend and top seed Christian Miller

er, 6-2, 6-4, to earn the first finals ticket, while Lee pulled off a 7-6, 6-1 win over Lucas Nutting.

Boys' 9-and-under division top seed Christopher Cajigan had some anxious moments before winning the title in the same age group. Cajigan scored a 6-3 win over Carl Dela Cruz but was pushed

See DFS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Rafael Jones watches the direction of his forehand return in his semifinal match against Christian Miller in the boys' 13-and-under division in the 28th Annual Duty Free Shop-Micronesian Tennis Tournament on Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.



JON PEREZ

Emily Jones eyes the ball as she prepares to make a forehand return in her match against Tammy Ackerman in the girls' 9-and-under division in the 28th Annual Duty Free Shop-Micronesian Tennis Tournament on Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Escape From Managaha Saturday

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Swimmers and long-distance racing enthusiasts are lining up to take on the challenge of the 6th Annual Escape From Managaha Island Ocean Swim this Saturday, May 24.

Event organizer and Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart is expecting between 50 to 60 swimmers to take part in the annual 2.7-kilometer ocean swim, which is a unique event that gives participants the chance to thread the beautiful waters of the Saipan lagoon from Managaha Island to the beaches of American Memorial Park.

The event will start early Saturday morning with the meeting place scheduled at 6am a Outer Cove Marina. The ferry that will take swimmer to Managaha Island leaves at 7am while the swim proper begins at 8am.

Stewart is also looking for volunteer kayakers that will guide and aid the swimmers as they make the journey from Managaha Island to Micro Beach.

The estimated time that the fastest swimmer to finish the ocean swim is between 45 to 65 minutes depending on the water conditions. Organizers will also allow the use of fins and wetsuits.

The cost is \$25 for Saipan Swim Club members, \$30 for Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation and Nadadore Master swimmers, and \$35 for non-members of all groups. The entrance fee includes a boat ride, an event T-shirt, and food for the post race barbecue.

This year, Stewart will also print out special event T-shirts were all the names of the participants would be printed in the shirt. "If you know you are swimming and want your name on this shirt please email me ASAP. It would also help if you give the size of shirt you would like."

Last year, SSC member Cooper Graf conquered the strong currents to top the race with a lung-busting time of 41 minutes and seven seconds followed by Marianas High School teacher Tyce

See ESCAPE on Page 26